Pakistan has every right to give a strong response to this war imposed by India. The Pakistani nation and its armed forces know very well how to deal with the enemy...

-Shehbaz Sharif,
Pakistan Prime Minister

Operation 'Sindoor' is a moment of pride. The operation was executed exactly as planned, with no mistakes whatsoever and successfully completed

-Narendra Modi,
PM

India exercised its right to respond and pre-empt as well as deter more such cross-border attacks. These actions were measured, non-escalatory, proportionate, and responsible.

-Vikram Misri,
Foreign Secretary

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SALAR

DIGITAL ENGLISH DAILY, BENGALURU

ساڈھ روزنامہ بنگلور

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India strikes Pakistan to avenge Pahalgam

70 terrorists killed in 'Op Sindoor'; Pak authorises Army to avenge strikes 'at a time, place' of its choosing

NEW DELHI, 7 MAY

India carried out a 25-minute-long "measured and non-escalatory" missile and drone strike early on Wednesday, destroying nine terrorist infrastructure sites in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), officials said.

The strike, named Operation Sindoor, was launched in retaliation to the 22 April Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 civilians.

According to sources, the strikes targeted key facilities of Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM), Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), and Hizbul Mujahideen, killing 70 terrorists and wounding over 60. Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said the action aligned with the UN Security Council's call to hold perpetrators and sponsors of terrorism accountable.

Strikes hit Markaz Taiba in Muridke, JeM's Markaz Subhan Allah in Bahawalpur, Hizbul's Mehmoona Joya facility in Sialkot, LeT's bases in Barnala and Muzaffarabad, and areas including Kotli, Rawalakot, Chakswari, Bhimber, Neelum Valley, Jhelum, and Chakwal.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh stated the operation was carefully planned to avoid civilian harm. However, Pakistani media claimed that Indian missiles allegedly targeted civilian areas, killing and injuring non-combatants, including women and children.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who granted the armed forces "complete operational freedom" on 29 April, chaired a Union Cabinet meeting following the strike and praised the military. Two women officers — Col Sophia Qureshi and Wing Commander Vyomika Singh — joined the press briefing with Misri.

Hours after the operation, Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said his country has every right to give a "befitting reply to this act of war imposed by India" as he claimed that 80 Indian jets were part of the operation. However, Pakistan's military said India fired missiles from within its airspace, hitting Kotli, Muzaffarabad, and Bahawalpur.

According to sources, the strikes targeted key facilities of Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM), Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), and Hizbul Mujahideen **PHOTO: PTI**

In response, Pakistan reportedly claims to have downed three to five Indian aircraft and a drone, said Reuters.

Pakistan also called the strikes "unprovoked" as the National Security Council allowed its armed forces to duly authorise and undertake retaliation "at a time, place, and manner of its choosing".

Meanwhile, Pakistan summoned the Indian Chargé d'Affaires to lodge a formal protest, calling the strikes "unprovoked" and a violation of sovereignty. As tensions rise, Pakistan declared an emergency in Punjab province, closed educational institutions, and shut down airspace for 48 hours, leading to over 300 flight cancellations and the closure of 25 airports. Indian air defence units remain on high alert along the border. —*PTI*

>>>More on Pages 2, 3, 5 & 7

In the spirit of regional peace, prosperity and stability, Bangladesh remains hopeful that tensions will be diffused through diplomatic endeavours, and that peace will ultimately prevail for the benefit of the peoples in the region

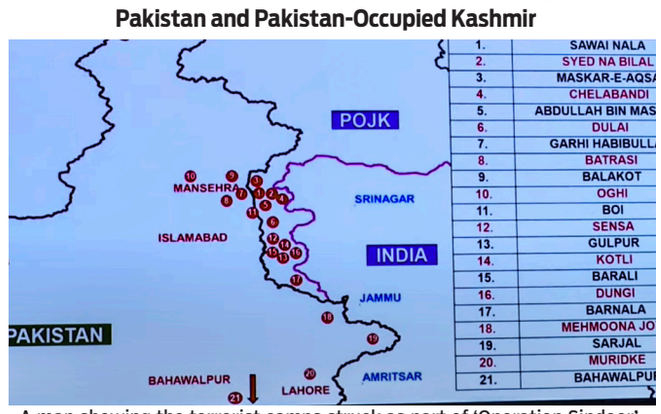
-Bangladesh

We are concerned about the ongoing situation. India and Pakistan are and will always be each other's neighbours. They are both China's neighbours as well. China opposes all forms of terrorism

-China

WHERE DID INDIA STRIKE?

India carried out 24 missile strikes on 9 terror targets in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir



A map showing the terrorist camps struck as part of 'Operation Sindoor' in Pakistan and PoK **PHOTO: PTI**

Local residents gathered near debris from an unidentified jet that crashed after midnight in Wuyan, Pampore, Pulwama, early Wednesday. This follows Operation Sindoor. According to Reuters, Pakistan's military claimed it shot down three Indian Rafale jets, one Su-30, one MiG-29, and an Israeli-made Heron drone in retaliation. Lt Gen Ahmed Sharif Chaudhary made the claims, though India has not yet issued a response. The identity and origin of the crashed aircraft in Pulwama remain unconfirmed **PHOTO: PTI**

JEM CHIEF LOSES 10 MEMBERS OF HIS FAMILY

LAHORE, 7 MAY

Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) Chief Maulana Masood Azhar acknowledged that 10 members of his family and four close associates were killed in India's missile attack on the outfit's headquarters in Bahawalpur.

A statement attributed to Azhar said those killed in the attack on Jamia Masjid Subhan Allah in Bahawalpur included the JeM Chief's elder sister and her husband, a nephew and his wife, another niece, and five children from his extended family. Bahawalpur became the hub of the JeM after the release of Azhar in exchange for the hijacked passengers of IC-814 in 1999. In May 2019, the United Nations designated Azhar a "global terrorist".

At a government briefing after Operation Sindoor, India sent a clear 'No More' message against terror. A video played before Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri's address showed past terror attacks — Parliament (2001), Akshardham (2002), Mumbai (2008), Uri, Pulwama, and Pahalgam — ending with the words: 'No More... Operation Sindoor' **PHOTO: PTI**

TRF head Gul mastermind of Pahalgam attack

NEW DELHI, 7 MAY

Sheikh Sajjad Gul, a 50-year-old Kashmiri and head of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) proxy outfit The Resistance Front (TRF), has been identified as the mastermind behind the recent Pahalgam terror attack, officials said on Wednesday.

Currently holed up in Rawalpindi, Pakistan, Gul—also known as Sajjad Ahmed Sheikh—has orchestrated numerous terror strikes across Central and South Kashmir between 2020 and 2024. These include targeted killings, grenade attacks in Central Kashmir in 2023, and ambushes on J&K police in Bijbehra, Gagangir, and at the Z-Morh Tunnel in Ganderbal.

Designated a terrorist by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in 2022, Gul carries a reward of Rs 10 lakh on his head. A Srinagar native, he holds an MBA from Bengaluru and a lab technician qualification from Kerala. —*PTI*

WHY? OPERATION SINDOOR?

Over 25 women lost their husbands in the Pahalgam terror attack, one of them was newly married. Sindoor is vermilion that married Hindu women wear and consider sacred. The name of the operation captures the loss of these women and symbolises "revenge". According to sources, it was PM Narendra Modi who named the operation "Sindoor".

WHAT WERE THE WEAPONS USED?

1 SCALP (Shadow storm)

It is a long-range air-launched cruise missile developed by France and the UK.

- Range: **550km.**
- Mass: **1,300kg.**
- Warhead weight: **450kg**
- Length: **5.1m**
- Guidance system: GPS & Inertial Navigation System (uses internal sensors to track missile's position).
- Can penetrate any hard structure.
- Travels at sub-sonic speed.
- Can be used in Mirage, Rafale, Su-24.
- Since 2023, the missiles were used in Iraq, Libya, Syria and Ukraine.

15 DEAD AS PAK SHELLS LOC VILLAGES

JAMMU/SRINAGAR, 7 MAY

At least 15 civilians, including four children, were killed and 57 others injured after the Pakistan Army launched heavy artillery and mortar shelling on forward villages along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday, officials confirmed.

The intense cross-border shelling began shortly after Indian armed forces carried out missile strikes. Poonch district bore the brunt of the Pakistani shelling. Forty-two people were also injured there, some critically. —*PTI*

>>>More on Page 3

Leaves for all para personnel cancelled

NEW DELHI, 7 MAY

In response to Indian armed forces' retaliatory strikes in Pakistan following the Pahalgam terror attack, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday directed all paramilitary force chiefs to immediately recall personnel on leave, sources said. Shah, in constant touch with J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, also instructed authorities to move civilians from border areas to safer locations and keep emergency bunkers ready. Reviewing the internal security situation, Shah asked top security officials to remain on high alert.

Modi postpones Europe trip

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's three-nation tour to Europe has been called off. Modi was scheduled to travel to Croatia, Norway and The Netherlands from 13 to 17 May.

HIGHLY AGILE MODULAR MUNITION RANGE

2

- It is an all-weather air-to-ground precision-guided munition made by French company Safran.
- Known as a glide bomb.
- Range: **70 km.**
- Can carry bombs up to **1,000kg.**
- Lauch platform: Rafale, Tejas, Mirage **2000D.**

LOITERING MUNITIONS

- Also known as kamikaze drones and suicide drones.
- Deployed for surveillance, target acquisition, and final strike.
- Can be controlled by humans or act on their own to loiter in an area. Once they lock onto a target, they crash into it and explode.
- Can carry a warhead and can wait around in the sky until they spot a target.
- Used in Ukraine war among others.

3

22 Naxalites killed in Chhattisgarh

BIJAPUR, 7 MAY

Twenty-two Naxalites were killed on Wednesday in a fierce encounter with security forces in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district during Operation Sankalp, a large-scale counter-insurgency operation launched in the Bastar region, police said. The gunfight occurred in the morning in the dense Karregutta hills forest along the Chhattisgarh-Telangana border. Bodies of 22 Maoists have been recovered. —*PTI*

>>>More on Page 4

Civil Defence personnel take part in 'Operation Abhyaas', a mock drill conducted at Ulsoor in Bengaluru on Wednesday **PHOTO: MOHAMMED ASAD**

LIGHTS OUT, SIRENS ON

Mock drills in India to prepare for war

NEW DELHI, 7 MAY

Mock drills simulating hostile scenarios such as air raids, fire emergencies, and search-and-rescue operations were conducted across India on Wednesday as part of the nationwide civil defence exercise, Operation Abhyaas.

In Delhi, 55 locations saw full-scale simulations involving PCR vans, fire engines, and civil defence volunteers. Sirens blared at the Indira Gandhi International Airport, while fire brigades and medics conducted rescue operations. Schoolchildren practised evacuations, sheltering under desks and switching off appliances.

The Ministry of Home Affairs directed states and Union Territories to conduct the drills in light of "new and complex threats." Activities included civilian training for hostile attacks, testing evacuation plans, crash blackouts, bunker readiness, and camouflaging critical infrastructure.

Around 300 'civil defence districts' were covered, including those with nuclear plants, military bases, and dams.

Bengaluru also saw drills involving fire rescues, debris clearance, and medical emergencies. —*PTI*

CBI CHIEF SOOD GETS 1 YEAR EXTENSION

NEW DELHI, 7 MAY

The Centre has extended the tenure of CBI Director Praveen Sood by one year, officials confirmed on Wednesday. This is the first such extension, which allows a maximum five-year tenure for the agency's chief.

Sood, a 1986-batch IPS officer from the Karnataka cadre, was appointed CBI Director on 25 May, 2023, for a two-year term. His extension is effective from 24 May, 2025. —*PTI*

KIA issues advisory, cancels some flights

BENGALURU, 7 MAY

Kempegowda International Airport on Wednesday issued a passenger advisory stating that due to prevailing airspace restrictions, some flights have been cancelled on 7 May. It requested passengers to verify their flight status with their respective airlines before heading to the airport. The announcement came after India's precision strikes on terror targets in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. "We're expecting impact on some flights across our network due to airspace restrictions. All passengers are requested to please check directly with your airline for the latest information. You can also find timely updates on their pages," the BLR airport said on X. *—PTI*

French Patisserie contest returns to City

BENGALURU, 7 MAY

The third edition of the French Patisserie competition, organised by the Consulate General of France, will be held from 13 to 19 May in City, a statement said. The French Consulate on Wednesday said the competition celebrates the excellence of French pâtisserie and highlights the strong culinary ties between France and India. This year, around 50 pâtisserie chefs from Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Chennai and Kolkata are competing in the semi-finals in City. It will be evaluated by Consul General of France Marc Lamy, Chef Manu Chandra and Vianney Meynier, head of the agri-tech department at Business France. The top 16 finalists will then compete in the grand finale on 10 June, hosted at Le Cordon Bleu Gurugram in Gurgaon the statement said *—PTI*

CNN withdraws Krishna Raja Sagar dam fees hike

MYSURU, 7 MAY

The Cauvery Neeravari Nigam, which manages the iconic Brindavan Gardens and the Krishna Raja Sagar (KRS) Dam in Mandya, has withdrawn its recently revised entry and service fee structure following widespread public protests, including opposition from farmers. An order to this effect was issued by Cauvery Neeravari Nigam Assistant Executive Engineer Faruque Ahmed Abbu from 7 May. Visitors can now pay entry fees to its prominent tourist spots with old rates only. It increased the entry and service fees for visitors with effective 1 May, 2025. As per the new structure, the entry fee for adults was doubled from Rs 50 to Rs 100. For children, the fee increased from Rs 20 to Rs 50. *—Salar News*

Victims' families welcome 'Operation Sindoor'

'My son won't come back, but such things shouldn't happen'

BENGALURU/ SHIVAMOGGA 7 MAY

The families of the victims of the Pahalgam attack welcomed the air strikes carried out by Indian armed forces in Pakistan on Wednesday.

Bharath Bhushan from Bengaluru, who was visiting Pahalgam with his wife and three-year-old son, was shot dead by terrorists on 22 April. His wife, Sujatha, and their child survived the attack. Bushan's father Channaveerappa said he heard the news about 'Operation Sindoor' at 6am.

"They have attacked and killed I heard but still some more people are escaping. Government has to take steps to kill them also," he told PTI videos. "The name, 'Operation Sindoor' is correct because they have removed the tilak of many women. That's a good step."

He added, "They (Pakistan) are sheltering terrorists in their hideouts, giving them money."

Families of the Bharath Bushan and Manjunath Rao, who were killed in the Pahalgam terror attack *PHOTO: ANI*

Bhushan's brother Preetham said the family is still in grief and not able to accept that Bharath is no more with them. "Somewhere, we feel that Bharat must be around. He would come back. That's what I feel everyday when I wake up. Sometimes I wonder has this really happened to us or it's just a dream? That's the state all of us are in the family."

Sumathi the mother of Manjunath Rao, also a victim, welcomed the air strikes.

She said, it is not a feeling of satisfaction but such things should not happen to others' children.

"We had faith that Modi will take right decision and accordingly he has taken. Nothing should happen to innocents, but those who try to oppress or indulge in roguery against us should not be spared. My son's sacrifice should not go waste," Sumathi said.

"It is not a feeling of satisfaction, because my son who has gone won't come back, but such things should not happens to others' children in the future, everyone should be able to travel freely," she added. *—PTI*

- Bharath Bhushan's and Manjunath Rao's families praised the attacks. Bharath's father noted how some terrorists might have escaped, while his brother said that he still thinks Bharath will one day come back. Manjunath's mother said she doesn't feel any satisfaction but such losses shouldn't strike anyone

STATE CONG POSTS GANDHIJI'S QUOTE ON PEACE, THEN DELETES IT

BENGALURU, 7 MAY

The Karnataka Congress posted a Mahatma Gandhi's quote emphasising peace on its social media handle but deleted it later.

"The most powerful weapon of mankind is peace - Mahatma Gandhi," the Congress posted on X, Wednesday. The post went up hours after 'Operatioon Sindoor'.

The party later lauded the Indian Air Force in another post. "The Indian Air Force, widely recognised as one of the world's strongest air forces gave a befitting reply to the cowardly terrorist attack. We stand with the government, we stand with our security forces," Congress said.

The **BJP State Chief Vijayendra** flayed the Congress, saying every Indian welcomes India's retaliatory action. "We feel proud and we stand by Indian soldiers but unfortunately the Congress party in Karnataka is advocating peace at this juncture," he told reporters here.

He termed Congress' deleted post shocking.

"Every Indian is feeling proud about the move by our Indian soldiers. The stand by the Congress party is very unfortunate, and I demand an apology from the Congress party to the people of this country," Vijayendra said. *—PTI*

'PROUD OF SOLDIERS'

Will not tolerate terror: CM lauds Op

BENGALURU, 7 MAY

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Wednesday saluted the armed forces for conducting precision strikes on Pakistan under 'Operation Sindoor'.

"I salute the extraordinary courage of our armed forces behind 'Operation Sindoor'. Their heroic action reaffirms that India will never tolerate terror in any form," Siddaramaiah said on X.

He said, "Every effort by our brave soldiers is a pledge to bring justice to the victims, their families, and to every Indian who believes in peace and humanity. Karnataka joins the nation in expressing unwavering solidarity with our forces. We are proud of your valour, sacrifice, and unflinching commitment to protect our sovereignty."

The State Congress cancelled its "Samvidhan Bachao (Save the Constitution) and Anti-Price Rise Rally" scheduled in Raichur.

"At this juncture, it would be inappropriate to protest against the Central government's policies," he said.

Similarly, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar also hailed the Army.

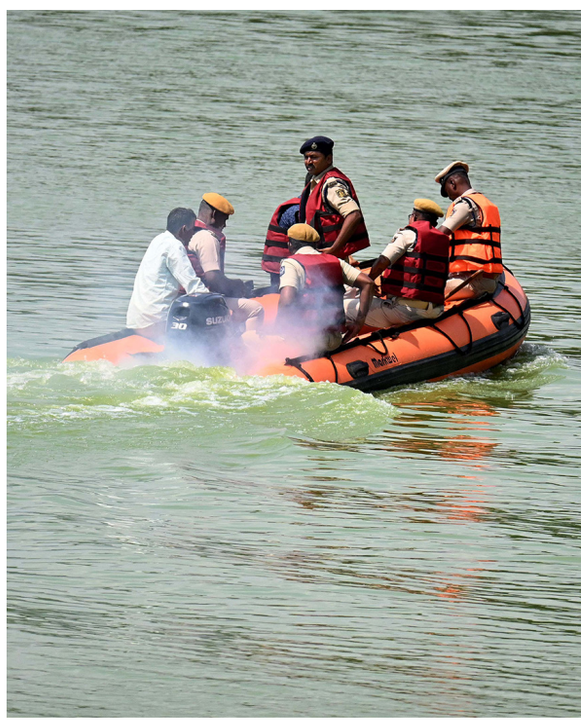
"We are proud of our Defence forces. We salute them for protecting our nation."

Meanwhile, Home Minister G Parameshwara said the State government-initiated action based on the Centre's advisories.

"We have taken special interest in securing major installations—be it power stations, irrigation dams, or industries," Parameshwara said.

Separately, Shivakumar appealed to the Centre to provide support and cooparation in implementing various infrastructure projects in City. *—PTI*

OPERATION ABHYAAS



Following the directions of the Union Ministry of Home Affairs, several mock drills, as part of the 'Operation Abhyaas' took place across the City. Government personnel on Wednesday conducted a drill at Fire and Emergency Services at Ulsoor in Bengaluru, while police performed a drill at Cantonment Railway Station. Soon after the siren blew at 3.48pm in various locations, the civil defence personnel, police, fire and emergency services personnel swung into action *PHOTOS: MOHAMMED ASAD*

SPACE POLITY

State govt, IN-SPACe sign pacts on space tech

BENGALURU, 7 MAY

The Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe) and the State government on Wednesday announced the signing of MoUs to accelerate the State's emergence as India's leading commercial space launch pad.

Signed by the Department of Electronics, Information Technology, Biotechnology and Science & Technology on behalf of the state government, the MoUs include the establishment of a Centre of Excellence for Space Technologies in City and the development of a public-private Space Manufacturing Park to anchor next-generation satellite and launch vehicle production.

The agreements set the framework for collaboration between the State government and IN-SPACe in establishing the Centre of Excellence and the manufacturing park, according to a release.

The State already boasts a mature ecosystem across the space sector value chain—comprising government agencies, private players, MSMEs, ISRO headquarters, DRDO labs, and public-sector undertakings such as HAL, BEL, BHEL, and NAL, along with leading academic and research institutions.

IN-SPACe is focused on R&D and innovation *PHOTO: X*

The MoUs aim to support the state's NewSpace ecosystem in alignment with the national vision outlined in the Indian Space Policy, 2023, and foster innovation in the sector.

IN-SPACe has been driving India's space ambitions by enabling ease of business and encouraging participation from both government and non-government entities.

As global space activity surges, IN-SPACe is playing a key role in shaping India's space economy.

The MoUs reflect a strategic move to align regional aspirations with national goals, the release noted *—PTI*

Court displeased with delays by Lokayukta in MUDA case

BENGALURU, 7 MAY

The Special Court for former and present MPs and MLAs hearing the MUDA case on Wednesday expressed its displeasure over the way the Lokayukta Investigation Officer (IO) sought adjournment, citing the delayed proceedings.

During the hearing, Judge Santhosh Gajanan Bhat said though the requisition was furnished by the IO along with a document in a sealed cover, the court was not happy with the manner in which the adjournment was sought.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, his wife Parvathi BM, her brother Mallikarjuna Swamy, and others are accused in the MUDA case.

"The complainant seriously objected to granting the adjournment by submitting that necessary permission was already obtained against accused DB Natesh and that the investigating agency is unnecessarily dragging the proceedings," the Judge observed.

The court said it has taken note of petitioner Snehamayi Krishna's request that it should pass necessary orders on the B-report.

"As already indicated by this court, it would be appropriate to consider the B-report. However, the apprehension of the complainant concerning delaying the proceedings is taken note of by this court," the Judge said.

"On considering the submissions, it would be appropriate to seek a detailed report by the IO by way of an affidavit to be filed before the court for the status of the case," it observed.

The court posted the hearing on 29 May, saying that to meet the ends of justice, the case required adjournment by granting an opportunity to the investigating agency.

In the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) scam, compensatory sites were allegedly allotted to Parvathi in an upmarket area in Mysuru, which was valued higher compared to the location of her land, which had been acquired by the MUDA. *—PTI*

DC meets officials on festivities atop Chamundi

BENGALURU, 7 MAY

Deputy Commissioner G Lakshmikanth Reddy on Wednesday directed the district administration officials to make necessary preparations to ensure smooth celebrations of Chamundeshwari Vardhanthi and the four Ashada Friday celebrations which will be held at Chamundeshwari temple atop Chamundi Hills.

This year, the Ashada Fridays will be held on 27 June and 4, 11 18 July, and the Chamundeshwari Vardanthi will be held on 17 July, he said

Reddy also instructed the officials to prevent the entry of all private vehicles and arrange free public transport facility from Lalitha Mahal Helipad grounds to the temple. He asked the police to make security arrangements and plan for traffic and crowd management.

The DC also asked Mysuru city corporation to maintain cleanliness and ensure availability of drinking water during the celebrations. He has entrusted the responsibility of lighting arrangements at all temples and streets atop the hill, including the 1000 steps. Entry is free for all devotees during on all Saturdays and Sundays during the festivities. However, Rs 300 will be charged for special darshan and Rs 50 for special entry, Reddy said *—Salar News*

Pak kills 15 civilians along LoC in J&K

Citizens flee as the Pakistan Army advances; all educational institutes in 5 J&K districts shut

A civilian looks at damaged properties after heavy firing and shelling by Pakistan military overnight across the Line of Control and International Border, at Mendhar area of Poonch district, Jammu and Kashmir **PHOTO: PTI**

JAMMU/SRINAGAR, 7 MAY

At least 15 civilians, including four children, were killed and 57 others injured after the Pakistan Army launched heavy artillery and mortar shelling on forward villages along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday, officials confirmed.

The intense cross-border shelling began shortly after Indian armed forces carried out missile strikes.

Poonch district bore the brunt of the Pakistani shelling. Forty-two people were also injured there, some critically. The deceased are Balvinder Kour alias "Ruby", 33; Mohd Zain Khan, 10; Zoya Khan, 12; Mohd Akram, 40; Amrik Singh, 55; Mohd Iqbal, 45; Ranjeet Singh, 48; Shakeela Bi, 40; Amarjeet Singh, 47; Maryam Khatoon, 7; Vihaan Bhargav, 13; and Mohd Rafi, 40.

Pakistan has gone out of its way to target the civilian population

-Omar Abdullah, Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister

The shelling created widespread panic, forcing residents to seek shelter in underground bunkers or relocate to safer areas. Shelling was reported from Balakote, Mendhar, Mankote, Krishna Ghati, Gulpur, Kerni, and even Poonch town.

Ten people, including five children, were injured in Uri sector of Baramulla district, while three were injured in Rajouri. Several houses caught fire in the Karnah sector of Kupwara district due to the bombardment.

Shelling remained intense until noon, later continuing intermittently, mainly focused on the Poonch sector. Authorities ordered all educational institutions in the five border districts of Jammu region to remain closed on Wednesday.

This marks the 13th consecutive night of unprovoked firing along the LoC.

The residents in Poonch city reported a sleepless and terrifying night with shells exploding in close quarters, echoing through the hills.

"It was like a war zone with the injured screaming for help and families forced to look for cover. The damage could be seen everywhere," Mohd Zahid, a local resident, said as he thanked his luck for escaping the shelling.

Shells also landed near the UN station and forest department buildings in Poonch, causing extensive damage to both the structures. —*PTI*

We are delighted that killing of those 26 Pahalgam victims including my son, has been avenged. I thank the govt. Security forces and govt took the revenge. In the future no one should lose their lives like this. We had confidence in PM Modi. We got justice today

-Hyder Shah, father of Syed Adil Hussain Shah

This operation has been aptly named Operation Sindoor. The strikes will resonate in their (terrorists) minds forever. They will think 100 times before acting

-Rajesh Narwal, father of Lt Vinay Narwal's

Those whom we lost will never return. But this action by the Army, this powerful response, is a true tribute to their sacrifice. The terrorists did not just attack individuals, they attacked the soul of India. And India has shown them their place

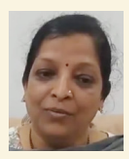
-Harshal Lele, daughter of Sanjay Lele and niece of Atul Mone and Hemant Joshi

I am elated because the terrorists will now understand the value of a human life and how precious it is. The sacrifice of my husband has not gone in vain.

-Priya Darshani Achariya, wife of Prashant Satpathy

When the news came, it was a kind of relief... and a comforting situation for all of us in the family. The title, 'Operation Sindoor', seems to be like a reply from the women of India.

-Arathy, daughter of N Ramachandran



Our sindoor was wiped out by terrorists but today I am very happy that under Operation Sindoor, our armed forces destroyed terrorists' bases in Pakistan

-Pragati Jagdale, wife of Santosh

Keep carrying out such attacks and wipe out Pakistan, this is my prayer to Modi saheb

-Kajalben Parmar, wife of Yatish Parmar and mother of Smit

The Targets of 'Operation Sindoor'

NEW DELHI, 7 MAY

'Operation Sindoor' was conducted from 1.05am to 1.30am, Wing Commander Vyomika Singh and Col Sofiya Qureshi said a press conference.

Here are the details of the targets, as released by the Indian Army.

Sawai Nala Camp, Muzaffarabad: A key LeT training facility. The Sonmarg 20 October, 2024, Gulmarg 24 October, 2024 and Pahalgam attacks all "germinated" here.

Syedna Belal Camp, Muzaffarabad: A Jaish-e-Mohammad terrorist organisation's camp. It was used to train terrorists for activities across the LoC in Kashmir.

Gulpur Camp, Kotli: It was the base for LeT terrorists operating in Rajouri-Poonch. Terrorist trained here were allegedly involved in attacks in Poonch on 20 April, 2023, and on a bus carrying pilgrims on 9 June, 2024. Zaki-ur-Rehman Lakhvi, 26/11 mastermind, frequented the site.

Abbas Camp, Kotli: Known as the nerve centre for training suicide bombers of LeT.

Barnala Camp, Bhimber: Used for providing training to terrorists in weapon handling, and IED making.

Sarjal Camp, Sialkot: Terrorists who killed four Jammu and Kashmir police in March 2025 were trained here.

Mehmoona Joya Camp, Sialkot: A key training facility of Hizbul Mujahideen, it was being used as the control centre in revival of terrorism in Kathua and Jammu region. Major terrorist attacks including attack on Pathankot Air Force Base was planned and directed from here.

Markaz Taiba, Muridke: Headquarters of the LeT led by Hafiz Syed. Terrorists trained here were associated with many attacks including Mumbai strikes in 2008. Azmal Kasab, the Pakistani terrorist captured alive after the Mumbai attacks confessed to being trained in Muridke. According to inputs, David Coleman Headley also received training at this camp.

Markaz Subhan, Bahawalpur: Headquarters of JeM. This camp was used for recruitment, training and indoctrinating JeM terrorists. It was frequented by commanders, including Masood Azhar who issued directions to from the camp. —*PTI*

NARI SHAKTI

For the first time, two women officers briefed the public on such a strike, alongside Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri. Meet the two women

Col Sofiya Qureshi

Col Sofiya Qureshi is a multi-generation officer in the Army who imbibed the spirit of serving the nation from an early age. Qureshi, an officer from the Corps of Signals, quit her PhD and a teaching career to serve in the Army. She said that she "joined the academy, when the Kargil war was going on".

She was also the first woman officer to lead an Army training contingent.

Wing Commander Vyomika Singh

Wing Commander Vyomika Singh is an accomplished helicopter pilot who has flown a variety of aircraft and taken part in rescue operations in extreme conditions to evacuate civilians. Vyomika, who's married to an Indian Air Force (IAF) pilot, shared how her name carried her destiny to become a pilot during a panel discussion

hosted by a private channel in 2023. In 2020, she led a rescue operation in Arunachal Pradesh, flying in extreme conditions to evacuate civilians.

NATION UNITES

All-party meet today; Shah tells border states to be vigilant

NEW DELHI, 7 MAY

The government convened an all-party meeting on Thursday about the airstrike.

Meanwhile Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday asked the states sharing borders with Pakistan and Nepal to maintain a strict vigil on anti-national propaganda on all media platforms.

At a meeting with the Chief Ministers, DGPs and Chief Secretaries of such states, Shah said prompt action should be taken against violators, while arrangements should be made to ensure smooth operation of hospitals and the fire brigade and an uninterrupted supply of essential goods.

Asking the states to stop the spread of unnecessary fear among the public and take steps to spread awareness among people against rumours, the Home Minister said coordination between the local administration, army and paramilitary forces should be further enhanced.

He asked the states to keep the SDRF, civil defence, home guards, and NCC, among others, on alert to deal with any situation.

Shah said efforts should be made to ensure public participation through citizens and non-governmental organisations.

The meeting was attended via video conferencing by the Lieutenant Governors of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, Chief Ministers of Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Rajasthan, Gujarat and West Bengal.

A representative from the Sikkim government, senior officials from the home ministry, including Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan, Director of the Intelligence Bureau (IB) Tapan Deka, besides others, attended the meeting. —*PTI*

We expect PM Modi to attend at least tomorrow's meeting

-Jairam Ramesh, Congress communication head

WORLD ON EDGE

Ready to 'retaliate' if Pak escalates, says NSA Ajit Doval

Ajit Doval **PHOTO: ANI**

NEW DELHI, 7 MAY

National Security Advisor Ajit Doval on Wednesday told his counterparts in various countries that India has no intent to escalate tensions but is prepared to "retaliate resolutely" if Pakistan does so, officials said.

Doval briefed his counterparts in the US, UK, Saudi Arabia and Japan about India's missile strikes against terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir. He also established contact with Russia and France, officials said.

"NSA briefed his counterparts on actions taken and method of execution, which was measured, non-escalatory and restrained. He emphasised that India had no intent to escalate but was well prepared to retaliate resolutely should Pakistan decide to escalate," an official said.

He spoke to US NSA and Secretary of State Marco Rubio, UK's Jonathan Powell, Saudi Arabia's Musaid Al Aiban, UAE's H.H. Sheikh Tahnoon, and Japan's Masataka Okano.

- NSA Ajit Doval briefed his counterparts in US, UK, Saudi Arabia and Japan, while EAM Jaishankar did the same with his counterparts from Japan, Germany, France and Spain

"Contact was also established with Russian NSA Sergei Shoigu, Member of Political Bureau of CPC Central Committee and Minister of Foreign Affairs of PRC Wang Yi and Diplomatic Adviser to French President Emmanuel Bonne," the official said.

Doval will be in further touch with his counterparts in the days ahead.

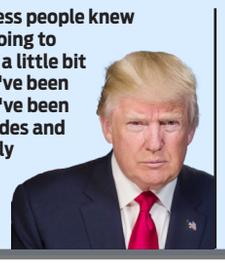
Similarly, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar spoke to his counterparts from Japan, Germany, France and Spain.

In addition to speaking to Doval, Rubio said he spoke to the NSA Asim Malik of Pakistan. He reportedly urged both of them to keep their communications lines open.

In a post on X, Rubio said, "I am monitoring the situation between India and Pakistan closely. I echo POTUS's comments earlier today that this hopefully ends quickly and will continue to engage both Indian and Pakistani leadership towards a peaceful resolution." —*PTI*

It's a shame. I guess people knew something was going to happen based on a little bit of the past. They've been fighting for a long time. They've been fighting for many, many decades and centuries, actually, if you really think about it. I just hope it ends very quickly

-Donald Trump, US President



We call on the parties involved to exercise restraint in order to prevent further deterioration. We hope that the differences between New Delhi and Islamabad will be resolved through peaceful, political and diplomatic means on a bilateral basis in accordance with the Simla Agreement of 1972

-Maria Zakharova, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokesperson

We are engaging urgently with both countries, as well as other international partners, encouraging dialogue, de-escalation and the protection of civilians

-Keir Starmer, British Prime Minister

(India and Pakistan should) exercise restraint, de-escalate tensions, and avoid further escalation that could threaten regional and international peace. His Highness stressed the importance of heeding the voices calling for dialogue

-Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, UAE Deputy Prime Minister of Foreign Affairs

Ready to 'wrap' if India withdraws: Pak Defence Min Asif

ISLAMABAD, 7 MAY

Pakistan is ready to "wrap up" tensions with India, if New Delhi de-escalates the situation, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif, as quoted by Bloomberg Television, said on Wednesday. "We have been saying all along in the last fortnight that we'll never initiate anything hostile towards India. But if we're attacked, we'll respond. If India backs down, we will definitely wrap up this tension," he said.

Regarding the possibility of talks, he said he was not aware of any such potential. —*PTI*

As tensions mount, 'Operation Abhyaas' prepares nation with mock drills to ensure safety

From left to right: Security personnel take part in a drill as a part of the nationwide civil defence exercise, 'Operation Abhyaas' at Hyderabad, Madhya Pradesh, New Delhi and Mumbai on Wednesday. Rescue personnel evacuated people from buildings using ropes, provided medical aid, and shifted the 'injured' during the operations in Hyderabad, while Delhi saw a 15 minute complete blackout. Mumbai and neighbouring districts simulated air raids while Madhya Pradesh also saw blackouts in five districts **PHOTO: PTI**

PHOTO: PTI

IIT Roorkee sacks professor over sexual harassment

DEHRADUN, 7 MAY

A senior professor of the Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee, has been sacked after the conclusion of disciplinary proceedings against him over a sexual harassment complaint, according to an official statement. In the press note IIT-Roorkee shared on Tuesday, the institute said Zillur Rahman, 60, has been dismissed from the service following the conclusion of disciplinary proceedings against him. A research scholar doing a PhD under him levelled the sexual harassment charge against him in January. Rahman, was one of the senior-most professors at the institute and once headed department of management studies, sources said. More than 15 research scholars were doing their PhD under his supervision. —*PTI*

2 held for Mithi river desilting scam

MUMBAI, 7 MAY

Two alleged middlemen, Ketan Kadam and Jai Joshi, have been arrested in connection with the Rs 65 crore Mithi river desilting scam. Economic Offences Wing of Mumbai Police conducted searches at their properties, along with those of BMC officials Prashant Ramgude and Ganesh Bendre, and contractors. The duo is accused of facilitating the rental of machines for river desilting at inflated prices. BMC officials allegedly tailored tender specifications to favour Matprop, a machinery supplier, ensuring only their equipment could be used. The cost of hiring the machines was inflated from Rs 1,609 per metric tonne to Rs 2,193. The contractors also generated fraudulent bills for transporting sludge. —*PTI*

Delhi HC reserves verdict on Christian Michel James' bail

NEW DELHI, 7 MAY

Delhi High Court on Wednesday reserved its order on Christian Michel James' plea to modify his bail conditions in Rs 3,600-crore AgustaWestland money laundering case. Michel, who appeared via video link from Tihar Jail, sought relaxation of two conditions: Rs 5 lakh surety and the surrender of his expired passport. His counsel argued that passport renewal process could take four-eight weeks, and he should not remain in jail during this time. He also claimed no one from India could stand as surety for him, given his nationality. Enforcement Directorate (ED) opposed the plea, asserting there was a risk of him fleeing the country. ED further suggested that once his passport was renewed, it could be handed to investigating officer or trial court to prevent misuse. —*PTI*

8 held for 'selling' 14-yr-old tribal girl to 35-yr-old man

THANE, 7 MAY

Police in Thane district, Maharashtra, arrested eight people, including 35-year-old Mangesh Gadekar, who had recently married a 14-year-old tribal girl after allegedly paying her parents Rs 1.20 lakh. The girl, from the Katkari community, was promised to Gadekar by her father. The marriage was halted when a local volunteer, Dayanand Patil, tipped off the authorities, and police intervened just as the couple had exchanged garlands. A case under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) section 143 (trafficking) and the Prevention of Child Marriage Act was filed against 11 individuals, with eight arrested. Inspector Sandipan Sonawane highlighted the growing trend of men from regions like Nashik and Ahmednagar seeking underage brides in Thane's tribal belt. —*PTI*

SC flays NLU over errors in CLAT

The HC had directed the consortium to revise the marksheet within 4 weeks

NEW DELHI, 7 MAY

The Supreme Court on Wednesday expressed anguish over the "casual manner" in which the Consortium of National Law Universities was framing questions for the Common Law Admission Test (CLAT).

A bench of Justices BR Gavai and Augustine George Masih, pointed out mistakes related to some of the questions in the CLAT UG-2025, while hearing a plea filed by an aspirant challenging the Delhi High Court's April 23 verdict.

The High Court had previously directed the consortium to revise the marksheets and republish the final list of selected candidates within four weeks.

"At the outset, we must express our anguish at the casual manner in which the respondent number one (consortium) has been framing

the questions for the CLAT examination which involves the career aspirations of lakhs of students in the country," the top court said.

"When academicians themselves err in such a manner which affects the careers of lakhs of students, the court is left with no other option," it added.

- The CLAT 2025 for admissions to five-year law (LLB) courses in national law universities was held on 1 December in 2024 and the results were declared on 7 December. The petitioner claimed being aggrieved by the high court verdict directing revision of marksheets.

The CLAT 2025 for admissions to five-year law (LLB) courses in national law universities was held on 1 December in 2024 and the results were declared on 7 December. The petitioner claimed being aggrieved by the high court verdict directing revision of marksheets.

On 30 April, the apex court stayed the High Court verdict directing the consortium to revise the marksheets and republish the final list of selected candidates.

Multiple pleas were filed but on 6 February, the Supreme Court transferred all cases to the Delhi High Court for a "consistent adjudication" after the Consortium of National Law Universities filed transfer petitions.

On 20 December, 2024, a Delhi High Court single judge bench directed the consortium to revise the result of CLAT-2025 over the errors in the answer key and then following a challenge the court's division bench on April 23 accepted certain objections of the candidates while rejecting some of them. The High Court is yet to hear pleas challenging the questions. —*PTI*

Accused entitled to docus, statements taken by ED : SC

New Delhi, 7 May

Supreme Court on Wednesday held an accused was entitled to copies of documents and statements collected by Enforcement Directorate (ED) during investigation. Once cognisance was taken on the prosecution complaint, the special judge must direct that along with process, a copy of complaint and documents be supplied to the accused. Sarla Gupta, accused in a money laundering case, challenged a Delhi HCt judgment, which held the prosecution was not obligated to provide documents at pre-trial. —*PTI*

Reliance subsidiary gets 1 week to settle refund

New Delhi, 7 May

Supreme Court on Wednesday gave a week's time for settling the dispute over refund of nearly Rs 2,500 crore by Reliance Infrastructure subsidiary Delhi Airport Metro Express Private Limited and Axis Bank to Delhi Metro Rail Corporation, failing which the law will take its own course. The bench told Attorney General R Venkataramani to keep details of managing directors of private firm and banks and other senior officials ready. Axis Bank said it only operated the escrow account in the dispute. —*PTI*

The offensive involves as many as 20,000 troops and is led by the CRPF along with units of Chhattisgarh Police **PHOTO: ANI**

Operation Sankalp: 22 Naxalites killed in Chhattisgarh

BIJAPUR, 7 MAY

Twenty-two Naxalites were killed in an encounter with security forces on Wednesday in the forests of Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district bordering Telangana during Operation Sankalp, a senior police official said.

Operation Sankalp, one of the biggest counter-insurgency actions launched in Bastar region, involves around 28,000 security personnel.

Since this operation launched on 21 April, at least 35 encounters have taken place in the Karregutta and adjoining hills surrounded by dense forest and around 40 firearms have been recovered, police said. The operation is still underway in the region. It is spread over nearly 800 sq km on both sides of the inter-state border between Bijapur (Chhattisgarh) and Mulugu and Bhadradri-Kothagudem (Telangana), more than 450 km from the capital Raipur. Over 400 improvised explosive devices, approximately 2 tonnes of explosive materials and more than six tonnes of ration items, medicines, daily use materials and other Maoist belongings have been seized.

With the latest encounter, the toll of Naxalites under Operation Sankalp has climbed to 26.

A total 168 Naxalites have been gunned down in separate encounters in Chhattisgarh so far this year.

Of them, 151 were eliminated in Bastar division, comprising seven districts, including Bijapur. —*PTI*

Panel confirms cash found at judge's home

NEW DELHI, 7 MAY

The Supreme Court-appointed panel has confirmed the cash discovery allegations against Allahabad High Court's Justice Yashwant Varma in its inquiry report, sources have said. Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna is also learnt to have nudged the judge to step down in view of the critical findings in the report.

The CJI has forwarded the

Yashwant Varma **PHOTO: PTI**

report to Justice Varma and sought his reply following the principle of natural justice, they said.

The report was submitted to the CJI by the three-member panel comprising Punjab and Haryana High Court Chief Justice Sheel Nagu, Himachal Pradesh High Court Chief Justice GS Sandhawalia and Justice Anu Sivaraman of the Karnataka High Court.

The panel analysed evidence and recorded the statements of over 50 people, including Delhi Police Commissioner Sanjay Arora and Delhi Fire Service chief who were among the first responders to the fire incident at Justice Varma's Lutyens Delhi residence on 14 March. Sources said it found clear evidence that a huge stash of cash was found in the storeroom of Justice Varma's official residence at the time of fire incident.

The top court has already barred the Allahabad High Court from assigning any judicial work for now to Justice Varma. —*PTI*

Union Cabinet approves 12K cr boost to 5 new IITs

NEW DELHI, 7 MAY

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved expansion of academic and infrastructure capacity of five new IITs which were set up in Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Chhattisgarh, Jammu and Kashmir and Karnataka. The total cost for the proposed expansion has been pegged at Rs 11,828.79 crore over a period of four years from 2025–26 to 2028–29 academic years, a statement said.

The Cabinet also approved creation of 130 faculty posts at the level of professor in these IITs. Five new state-of-art research parks are also coming up to strengthen industry–academia linkage, the statement said.

"Student strength in these IITs will be increased by more than 6,500 in the next four years with enhancement of 1,364 students in first year,

The Cabinet also approved creation of 130 faculty posts at the level of professor in these IITs **PHOTO: ANI**

1,738 students in second year, 1,767 students in third year and 1,707 students in fourth year across Under Graduate, Post Graduate and PhD programmes put together," the statement said.

Meanwhile, a Cabinet panel has approved the revised Scheme for Harnessing and Allocating Koyala Transparently in India (SHAKTI) for the allocation of coal to the power sector.

The CCEA "has approved grant of fresh coal linkages to thermal power plants of central sector/state sector/independent power producers," the coal ministry said. —*PTI*

'ISRO to launch 52 spy satellites over next 5 yrs'

NEW DELHI, 7 MAY

India is stepping up its space-based surveillance capabilities by putting in orbit a constellation of 52 satellites over the next five years with a strong participation from the private sector, the top boss of a key nodal agency has said. "We have fairly strong capabilities already. It is just that it needs constant enhancement," Pawan Kumar Goenka, Chairman, Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre told PTI on the sidelines of the Global Space Exploration Conference-2025 here. The satellites will help the Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force, track enemy movements, monitor borders, and improve real-time coordination. —*PTI*

Indian will land on Moon; Mars, Venus on radar: PM

NEW DELHI, 7 MAY

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said India was marching ahead with renewed confidence in the field of space exploration, and its astronauts' footprints will be on the Moon.

Mars and Venus were also on the country's radar for missions, he said in a pre-recorded message for the Global Space Exploration Conference (GLEX-2025) in Delhi.

For India, space was about exploration as well as empowerment, and listed out plans to

set up the Bharatiya Anatariksh Station by 2035 and land an Indian astronaut on the Moon by 2040, PM said.

"India's space journey is not about racing others. It is about reaching higher together. Together, we share a common goal to explore space for the good of humanity," he said.

He said India has launched a satellite for the South Asian nations and the G20 satellite, announced during its presidency of the grouping, will be a gift to the Global South.

"Our first human spaceflight mission, Gaganyaan, highlights our nation's rising aspirations," Modi said, adding that in coming weeks, an Indian astronaut will travel to space as part of a joint ISRO-NASA Mission to International Space Station. —*PTI*

Naveen Patnaik joins Russian Ambassador in inauguration of commemorative plaque honouring Indian Heroes of World War II **PHOTO: PTI**

RUSSIA HONOURS FREEDOM FIGHTER BIJU PATNAIK

BHUBANESWAR, 7 MAY

Russia on Wednesday paid tribute to freedom fighter and former Odisha Chief Minister Biju Patnaik by unveiling a memorial plaque in his honour at its embassy in New Delhi.

The event was part of celebrations marking the 80th Anniversary of the Great Victory in World War II.

Biju Janata Dal (BJD) chief Naveen Patnaik, the younger son of Biju Patnaik, attended the ceremony at the Russian Embassy in the national capital.

"Honoured to attend the memorial plaque inauguration ceremony at Russian Embassy in New Delhi to commemorate the contribution of legendary #BijuPatnaik in Stalingrad Operation during WWII. The Battle of Stalingrad led to success for Russia in the war against Nazi Germany which saved the world from untold horror. People of #Odisha will be immensely pleased with this award for #BijuPatnaik whom they treat with huge respect. Thank @RusEmbIndia for the honour. #Russia HonoursBijuPatnaik," Patnaik said in a post on X.

Russian Ambassador Danis Alipov had specially invited Patnaik, Leader of the Opposition of Odisha Assembly, to attend the programme.

The main function will be held on 9 May. —*PTI*

LEGAL NOTICE ISSUED

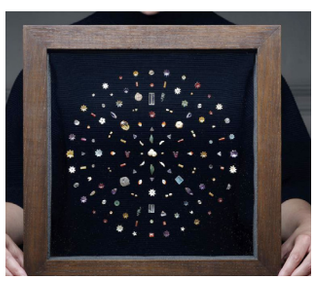
Auction of Buddha relics postponed in Hong Kong as India objects

HONG KONG, 7 MAY

Sotheby's on Wednesday postponed an auction of jewels associated with Buddha's remains after the Indian government opposed the sale and demanded it be halted.

The gems for auction were found buried together in reliquaries with the corporeal relics of the historical Buddha and discovered in northern India in 1898, the auction house said. They dated back to around 240-200 BC, it said.

But India's Ministry of Culture said in a Facebook post on Tuesday it had issued a legal notice to Sotheby's Hong Kong to demand the immediate halt of the sale, accusing the auction of violating "Indian laws, international norms and UN conventions."



The gem dated back to around 240-200 BC **PHOTO: ANI**

In its letter to Sotheby's Hong Kong dated Monday, posted on Facebook, it said the auction involves sacred Buddhist relics that constitute the inalienable religious and cultural heritage of India and the global Buddhist community. It demanded the repatriation of the relics to the Indian government and a public apology from the auction house and Chris Peppé.

Indian government warned in the letter that failure to comply would result in legal actions and public advocacy campaigns highlighting auction house's role "in perpetuating colonial injustice and becoming a party to unethical sale of religious relics."

The Indian Ministry of Culture said on Facebook on Wednesday it was "pleased to inform" that the auction was postponed after its intervention. —*PTI*

HC restrains Punjab from 'interfering' in dam functioning

CHANDIGARH, 7 MAY

The Punjab and Haryana High Court has restrained Punjab and its departments including police personnel from "interfering" in the day-to-day functioning, operation and regulation of the Bhakra-Nangal Dam and Lohand control room water regulation offices managed by Bhakra Beas Management Board.

On 6 May, a bench of Chief Justice Sheel Nagu and Justice Summet Goel said Punjab, however, was free to extend security to the Bhakra Nangal Dam and the Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB) personnel.

Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan chaired a high-level meeting which advised executing BBMB's decision to release 4,500 cusecs of extra water from Bhakra Dam to Haryana for the following eight days to meet the state's urgent water woes.

The BBMP moved high court objecting to the deployment of Punjab Police personnel at the Nangal Dam, calling it unconstitutional and illegal.

Amid the water row with Haryana, Punjab govt had informed HC on 6 May that state police was deployed at Nangal dam due to security purposes and was not interfering with BBMP's work. —*PTI*

THE AFTERMATH

Members of media film a building damaged by a suspected Indian missile attack near Muzaffarabad, the capital of Pakistan controlled Kashmir, on Wednesday. The missile attack was a retaliation for the Pahalgam terror attack. Indian armed forces on early Wednesday carried out missile strikes on nine terror targets in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), including the Jaish-e-Mohammad stronghold of Bahawalpur and Lashkar-e-Taiba's base Muridke

Photo: PTI

It is sleepless nights for people in border areas

INDO-PAK SHELLING

At Karnah in Kupwara district, the residents had to take shelter in underground bunkers to escape the shelling, the officials said

PHOTO: FREEPIK

Residents in the border areas of Kashmir spent an anxious night as guns roared from across the Line of Control following missile strikes by Indian armed forces on terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir early Wednesday.

It was a long night for the residents living near the Line of Control (LoC), as Pakistani troops resorted to ceasefire violations after India carried missile strikes under "Operation Sindoor" against nine terror targets in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), including the Jaish-e-Mohammad stronghold of Bahawalpur and Lashkar-e-Taiba's base in Muridke.

Heavy shelling by Pakistani troops was reported in Karnah and Uri sectors in north Kashmir's Kupwara and Baramulla districts, respectively, officials said.

Security forces on this side of the fence also retaliated and cross-border shelling between the two sides was going on when last reports were received, officials said, adding that the Pakistani shelling forced people to take refuge in underground bunkers where they spent a tensed night.

This was the 13th consecutive night of unprovoked firing along the borders in Jammu and Kashmir amid heightened tensions following the 22 April terror attack in Pahalgam that killed 26 people, mostly tourists.

At least 10 civilians, including three children, were injured and many buildings were damaged after Pakistani forces resorted to heavy shelling in the Uri sector, the officials said.

A local from Uri, Atif Ahmad, said the residents had to flee to safer locations as the shelling was intense.

"We spent a sleepless night due to the heavy shelling. We saw such intense shelling after a very long time," Ahmad said.

At Karnah in Kupwara district, the residents had to take shelter in underground bunkers to escape the shelling, the officials said.

Some houses and other buildings suffered heavy damage, while few caught fire due to the heavy shelling from across the LoC, they said.

"We spent a terrible long night. It was as if the night would never end. Our hearts sank every time we heard a loud bang of heavy shells. We had to move to safer locations and take shelter to save our lives amid the heavy shelling," Naseer Ahmad, a local resident, said.

Elsewhere in the Kashmir valley, including in Srinagar, people spent an anxious night after news broke about the missile strikes.

With heightened air activity around Srinagar, many residents were awake through the second half of the night, anxiously monitoring social media and news reports.

Many were worried about Pakistan's retaliation in the wake of India's missile strikes.

"I was woken up by the noise as jets were flying around. I checked social media and came to know about the strikes in Pakistan. I was awake the rest of the night, checking social media for information," Srinagar resident Owais Nisar said.

He also said the whole of Jammu and Kashmir would remain tense and worried for the next few days in the wake of the missile strikes and the heavy shelling on the borders.

—PTI

LETTERS write to us at salarenglishdigital@gmail.com

SALAR سالار

What's at stake as tensions rise in Kashmir

India and Pakistan appear closer to the brink of conflict after New Delhi launched a wave of missile strikes overnight, targeting what it said were terrorist camps deep inside Pakistan and Pakistan-administered Kashmir. The strikes, which India dubbed "Operation Sindoor," hit multiple locations including Bahawalpur and Muridke, and reportedly killed dozens of militants. Pakistan condemned the action as an "act of war," saying it had caused civilian casualties and put its military on high alert. The attacks were in retaliation for a brutal assault on 22 April in Indian-administered Kashmir, where militants killed at least 26 Indian tourists and wounded dozens more — the deadliest civilian attack in the region in years. India blamed Pakistan for backing the militant group perpetrating the attack. Few regions on earth are as densely militarized and persistently volatile as Kashmir. Cradled in the Himalayas and bordered by three nuclear powers — India, Pakistan, and China — the disputed territory has long been a flashpoint for regional rivalries and unresolved territorial claims. Why Kashmir matters Spanning roughly 222,200 square kms the Kashmir region is divided among India, Pakistan, and China — but claimed in full by both India and Pakistan. The region is home to roughly 20 million people — with an estimated 14.5 million living in India-administered territory, about 6 million in Pakistan-administered territory, and less than a few thousand in China-administered territory — and sits at a confluence of critical strategic, economic, and religious interests. The modern history of Kashmir's conflict dates back to 1947, when British India was partitioned into Hindu-majority India and Muslim-majority Pakistan. That changed after Pakistani guerrilla fighters attempted to seize the region and topple him. The result was the first India-Pakistan war, as the maharaja sought India's help to ward off the invaders and in return acceded his princely state to New Delhi — reinforcing a de-facto division of Kashmir that still holds. Today, India controls the most populous portion of the region, which includes the Kashmir Valley, Jammu and Ladakh. Pakistan holds parts of northern Kashmir, including Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) and Gilgit-Baltistan. China, meanwhile, administers the sparsely populated Aksai Chin region in the northeast, which India also lays claim to, and Shaksgam Valley, where Indian does not acknowledge Chinese control. Pakistan's claim to Kashmir is rooted, among other things, in the assertion that the region, with its Muslim majority, should have become part of Pakistan at the time of partition. India, in contrast, maintains that the 1947 Instrument of Accession signed by Hari Singh makes India's claim to the territory legitimate and final. But legal scholars dispute this, and call the validity of a document signed under duress into question. The disagreement has fueled multiple wars, insurgencies and decades of diplomatic hostility. While India and Pakistan dominate the Kashmir narrative, China also holds a strategic piece of the puzzle — and has now entered the conversation with a warning of its own. In response to India's overnight strikes, Beijing urged both countries to exercise "maximum restraint" and called for an immediate de-escalation, expressing concern that further conflict could destabilize the broader region. In the northeastern part of the region, Shaksgam Valley and Aksai Chin are administered by China but claimed by India. China established control over Aksai Chin in the 1950s by constructing a strategic highway linking Xinjiang and Tibet, a route that ran through territory claimed by India. India objected to the Chinese presence in the area, and tensions escalated into the brief but intense Sino-Indian War of 1962. After a brief conflict, China retained control of Aksai Chin and has administered it ever since India is believed to maintain more than 750,000 troops across Jammu and Kashmir, primarily concentrated in the Muslim-majority Kashmir Valley. Pakistan, for its part, stations as many as 120,000 security personell along the Line of Control (LoC) separating its administered regions from India, including specialized forces like the Mujahid Force, and 230,000 troops in the region. Both sides accuse the other of exaggerating their respective deployments, and neither publishes precise figures. However, analysts agree that the region's military density, particularly in relation to its civilian population, rivals or exceeds that of the Korean Peninsula. Armed insurgency in Indian-administered Kashmir, which began in the late 1980s, has been sustained by a mix of local discontent and external support. India accuses Pakistan of backing militant groups, an allegation Islamabad denies. What happens next will depend largely on how India and Pakistan manage the diplomatic and military fallout in the coming days.

—DDNews

The modern history of Kashmir's conflict dates back to 1947, when British India was partitioned into Hindu-majority India and Muslim-majority Pakistan

PHOTO: PTI

Armed conflicts between India and Pakistan-a timeline

The 1999 Kargil War was a high-altitude conflict between India and Pakistan, fought from May to July after Pakistani troops and terrorists occupied peaks in the Kargil sector of Jammu and Kashmir

PHOTO: PTI

Indian armed forces launched missile strikes on nine terrorist locations in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), including Bahawalpur, known as a key stronghold of the Jaish-e-Mohammed terrorist group.

These strikes, code-named 'Operation Sindoor', mark yet another chapter in the long-standing military tensions between India and Pakistan.

Here's the timeline of India-Pakistan armed conflicts since 1947:

1947 (first Indo-Pak War)

The war, also known as the First Kashmir War, broke out over the then princely state of Jammu and Kashmir between the newly independent nations India and Pakistan. It began in October 1947 when Pakistan-backed tribal militias invaded the princely state. In response, post the accession of Jammu and Kashmir to the Indian Union by Maharaja Hari Singh, India sent its troops to defend the region, leading to full-scale conflict between the two nations.

The conflict continued until January 1949, when a UN-mediated ceasefire was implemented, resulting in the division of Kashmir between India and Pakistan along the Line of Control (LoC).

1965 (second Indo-Pak War)

The armed conflict broke out on August 5, 1965 over Kashmir. It was triggered when thousands of Pakistani soldiers, disguised as local insurgents, infiltrated the Indian territory across the LoC in Jammu and Kashmir.

The covert operation, known as 'Operation Gibraltar', aimed to destabilise the region and provoke local uprisings. India responded by launching a military counter-offensive, which escalated into a full-scale combat along the international border. The war continued until September 23, 1965, when both sides agreed to a ceasefire, brokered by the Soviet Union and the United States.

1971 (Bangladesh Liberation War)

The 1971 Indo-Pak War was triggered by Pakistani military's crackdown on East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) and its demand for independence. India entered the war in support of the Bangladeshi independence movement, and after intense fight on both the eastern and western fronts, Pakistan's forces surrendered on December 16, 1971.

The war led to the creation of Bangladesh as an independent nation.

1999 (Kargil War)

The 1999 Kargil War was a high-altitude conflict between India and Pakistan, fought from May to July after Pakistani troops and terrorists occupied peaks in the Kargil sector of Jammu and Kashmir. India launched 'Operation Vijay' to reclaim the territory, supported by the Air Force's 'Operation Safed Sagar'. The war ended on July 26 with India regaining control, a day now marked as 'Kargil Vijay Diwas'.

2016 (Uri Attack)

Following the terrorist attack on an Indian Army base in Uri, Jammu and Kashmir, on September 18, 2016, which killed 19 soldiers, India conducted a surgical strike on September 28–29 across the LoC. The Indian Army targeted multiple terrorist launch pads in PoK, claiming significant casualties among terrorists preparing to infiltrate.

2019 (Pulwama attack)

On February 26, 2019, the Indian Air Force carried out airstrikes on a Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) terrorist training camp in Balakot, Pakistan, in response to the Pulwama terror attack that killed 40 CRPF personnel. Using fighter jets, India targeted the camp deep inside Pakistani territory, marking the first such airstrike since the 1971 war.

—PTI

PHOTO: PTI

11 dead as truck rams minibus in Indonesia

YOGYAKART, 7 MAY

A road accident in Central Java province has left 11 kindergarten teachers dead after a dump truck collided with their minibus on a downhill road. The incident occurred in Kalijambe village, Purworejo district, as the teachers, from Magelang district, were travelling to a funeral. The truck, heavily loaded with construction materials, reportedly lost control and crashed into the minibus before ploughing into a nearby house. Police have launched an investigation, with Purworejo police chief Andry Agustiano confirming the truck's suspected brake failure. Several injured, including the truck driver and the house's occupant, were taken to hospital. Road accidents are frequent in Indonesia, often due to poor safety standards and vehicle maintenance. *—PTI*

Six Bulgarians convicted in UK of spying for Russia

LONDON, 7 MAY

A Russian spy ring operating across Europe used film-inspired code names like 'Jackie Chan' and 'Mad Max' while conducting high-level espionage. Six Bulgarian nationals—three of whom pleaded guilty—were convicted of spying for Russia between 2020 and 2023. They targeted journalists, diplomats and Ukrainian troops, even plotting kidnap or killing of Kremlin critics. The gang spied on a US airbase in Germany and attempted to entrap a Bulgarian journalist linked to the 2018 Novichok poisoning case. UK police found advanced surveillance gear amidst everyday items, including a Minion toy. Ringleader Orlin Roussev was linked to fugitive Jan Marsalek. The sentencing began in London, with potential prison terms of up to 14 years. *—PTI*

South Korean court puts Czech nuclear deal on standby

SEOUL, 7 MAY

South Korean officials have downplayed a Czech court's decision to temporarily halt an SUD 18 billion project for South Korea to build two nuclear reactors. The court blocked electricity firm CEZ from signing a contract with Korea Hydro and Nuclear Power (KHNP) while it reviews a legal complaint by French rival EDF, which lost the bid. South Korean Industry Minister Ahn Dukgeun said the ruling was unexpected and would only delay the signing. He added CEZ plans to appeal. Acting President Lee Ju-Ho vowed coordination with Czech authorities. KHNP was selected in July to build two 1,000MW reactors at Dukovany. Former president Yoon Suk Yeol had championed nuclear exports, aiming to sell 10 reactors abroad by 2030. *—PTI*

F/A-18 Jet falls overboard from carrier USS Truman

DUBAI, 7 MAY

An F/A-18 Super Hornet jet landed on the USS Harry S Truman aircraft carrier in the Red Sea on Tuesday, but the arresting system failed, causing the plane to go overboard. The two pilots ejected and were rescued by helicopter, suffering only minor injuries. The incident occurred during a critical time as the Truman has been involved in US airstrikes against Yemen's Houthi rebels. The failed arrestment refers to the hook system used on aircraft carriers to catch cables on the flight deck, but the cause of the failure remains unclear. This mishap adds to the challenges of the Truman's deployment. Meanwhile, reports of a ceasefire between the Houthis and the US emerged, though it hasn't been confirmed by the rebels. *—PTI*

Israeli strikes kill 59 in Gaza

Blames Hamas using civilian infrastructure for the death toll

DEIR AL-BALAH, 7 MAY

Israeli strikes across Gaza killed at least 59 people, including women and children, hospital officials said on Wednesday, as Israel prepares to ramp up its campaign against Hamas in a devastating war now entering its 20th month.

The strikes included one attack on Tuesday night on a school in Bureij sheltering hundreds of displaced Palestinians, which killed 27 people, officials from the Al-Aqsa Hospital said, including nine women and three children. It was the fifth time since the war began that the school in central Gaza has been struck.

An early morning strike on another school-turned-shelter in Gaza City killed 16 people, according to officials at Al-Ahli Hospital, while strikes on targets in other areas killed at least 16 others.

The Israeli military had no immediate comment on the strikes. Israel blames Hamas for the death toll because it operates from civilian infrastructure, including schools.

The new bloodshed comes days after Israel approved a plan to intensify its operations in the Palestinian enclave, which would include seizing Gaza, holding on to captured territories, forcibly displacing Palestinians to southern Gaza and taking control of aid distribution along with private security companies.

Israel is also calling up tens of thousands of reserve soldiers to carry out the plan. Israel says the plan will be gradual and will not be implemented until after US President Donald Trump wraps up his visit to the region later this month.

Any escalation of fighting will increase the death toll. With Israel already controlling more than half of Gaza, increasing its hold on the territory indefinitely could open up the potential for a military occupation, which would raise questions about how Israel plans to have the territory governed, especially when it is considering how to implement Trump's vision to take over Gaza. *—PTI*

Palestinians collect belongings from a school used as a shelter by displaced residents in Bureij, central Gaza Strip, on Wednesday. The building was bombed twice by Israeli army on Tuesday **PHOTO: PTI**

Only 21 Israeli hostages alive: Trump

WASHINGTON, 7 MAY

President Donald Trump said on Tuesday that three hostages held by Hamas in Gaza have died, leaving only 21 believed to be still living. "As of today, it's 21, three have died," Trump said.

Trump also said he is halting nearly two months of US airstrikes on Yemen's Houthis, saying the Iran-backed rebels have indicated that "they don't want to fight anymore" and have pledged to stop attacking ships along a vital global trade route. *—PTI*

Israeli drone kills Hamas official

BEIRUT, 7 MAY

An Israeli drone strike on a car in southern Lebanon killed a Hamas official early Wednesday, authorities said. Hamas said in a statement that Khaled Ahmad al-Ahmad, who was a member of its military wing, was killed while he was on his way to a mosque to attend dawn prayers. The Israeli military confirmed targeting al-Ahmad, saying the Hamas commander in south Lebanon and was behind several attacks against Israel. Since Hamas' attack on Israel triggered the war on 7 October, 2023, Israel's military has targeted members of the group in Lebanon, where Hamas has a military presence. *—PTI*

Columbia varsity fires 180 as Trump stops $400M fund

NEW YORK, 7 MAY

Columbia University is laying off nearly 180 staffers after President Donald Trump's administration pulled $400 million in federal funding, citing the university's handling of pro-Palestinian protests and alleged tolerance of antisemitism during the Israel-Hamas war.

The affected employees, about 20 per cent of those supported by the canceled grants, received termination notices on Tuesday. The university said it is implementing cost-saving measures, including maintaining current salaries and offering voluntary retirement incentives. Research programs are also being scaled back, affecting projects ranging from an antiviral nasal spray to studies on maternal health, newborn care, and cancer screenings.

"These decisions impact our greatest resource—our people," Columbia said in a statement. University spokesperson Jessica Murphy declined to comment on further layoffs but confirmed efforts to regain financial flexibility.

Faculty expressed dismay, with Marcel Agueros, secretary of Columbia's chapter of the American Association of University Professors, calling the layoffs "dispiriting." The group has filed a federal lawsuit challenging the funding cuts as unlawful.

The funding was pulled in March. *—PTI*

The affected employees, about 20 per cent of those supported by the grants, received termination notices on Tuesday **PHOTO: @ERICLDAUGH**

US to rename Persian Gulf as Arabian Gulf

WASHINGTON, 7 MAY

President Donald Trump plans to announce during his upcoming visit to Saudi Arabia that the U. will officially refer to the Persian Gulf as the "Arabian Gulf" or "Gulf of Arabia," two US officials told AP. The change aligns with Arab nations' preferences but clashes with Iran's historical claim to the name. The Persian Gulf designation dates back to the 16th century. *—PTI*

US officials meet Chinese delegation in Switzerland

WASHINGTON, 7 MAY

Top US officials will meet with a high-level Chinese delegation in Switzerland this weekend, marking the first major talks since President Donald Trump's steep tariffs ignited a trade war. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer will lead the talks in Geneva, aiming to ease tensions as US-China tariffs have soared to 145 per cent and 125 per cent, respectively. *—PTI*

US RAMPS UP BID TO BREAK UP GOOGLE AD TECH

WASHINGTON, 7 MAY

The US Justice Department is ramping up its efforts to break up Google, proposing that the company divest its key ad technologies, AdX and DFP, which power its lucrative digital advertising network. This move follows a recent ruling by a federal judge that Google's ad network has been unlawfully stifling competition.

The Justice Department argues that Google should be penalised by offloading these tools, which connect advertisers with online publishers. Google has vowed to challenge this, claiming that separating the technologies would be technically unfeasible due to their integration within its proprietary system.

This proposed breakup comes on top of efforts to separate Google's Chrome browser from its search engine, a move part of a broader crackdown on its monopolistic behaviour. If successful, it could be the largest corporate breakup in the US since AT&T's 1980s split.

Despite these challenges, Google continues to post strong financial growth, with its parent company, Alphabet Inc., valued at $2 trillion. However, the rise of artificial intelligence and shifting online habits could threaten its dominance in the coming years. *—PTI*

Pak to face water crisis as Khanpur dam level drops

ISLAMABAD, 7 MAY

A looming water crisis has threatened Rawalpindi and Islamabad as the water level in Khanpur Dam has dropped significantly, leaving enough supply to meet the needs of its users for only 35 more days, Dawn reported.

Rocks and mounds have emerged in various reservoir areas, particularly around the main storage zone and spillways, clearly highlighting the severe effects of climate change and the rapidly declining water table. If substantial rainfall does not occur within the next 10 to 15 days, the dam's water level is likely to drop sharply, nearing the dead level.

Officials stated that the dam's catchment area, including the Margalla Hills and Galiyat, had received insufficient rainfall, further aggravating the situation.

PHOTO: X

Dam authorities expressed concern that they might be forced to halt irrigation water supply to the provinces of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, as well as reduce the provision of drinking water to Rawalpindi and Islamabad.

Authorities said that, in the absence of rainfall in the catchment areas, the water in the reservoir may last only about 35 days, as reported by Dawn. On Tuesday, water inflow into the dam was recorded at merely 82 cusecs, while the outflow stood at 235 cusecs per day. *—ANI*

Municipal workers clean up a residential area following Russia's drone attack in Kyiv on Sunday **PHOTO: PTI**

Russian strikes kill two in Kyiv

KYIV, 7 MAY

Russia launched a ballistic missile and a barrage of drones at Ukraine's capital before dawn on Wednesday, killing at least two people in apartment buildings, Ukrainian officials said.

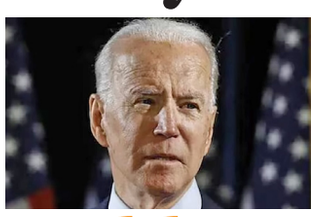
Eight people were also wounded in the attack, including four children, the Kyiv City Military Administration said in a post on Telegram.

The attack came before Russia's planned unilateral 72-hour ceasefire to coincide with celebrations in Moscow marking Victory Day in World War II. The US has proposed a 30-day ceasefire, which Ukraine has accepted, but the Kremlin has held out for ceasefire terms more to its liking.

The Kremlin said the truce, ordered on "humanitarian grounds," would start on Thursday and last through Saturday to mark the Soviet Union's defeat of Nazi Germany in 1945.

Russian President Vladimir Putin is expecting foreign dignitaries, including Chinese President Xi Jinping, to watch a military parade in Red Square during the 80th anniversary celebrations. Any Ukrainian attack, like Tuesday's drone barrage that forced all four international airports around Moscow to temporarily suspend flights, would be embarrassing for the Russian leader.

The Kremlin announced on Tuesday that Putin will travel to China at the end of August and beginning of September. Since Russia launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine on 24 February, 2022, Moscow has drawn closer to China as Western countries sought to isolate Putin diplomatically. Russia has become increasingly dependent economically on China because of Western sanctions. *—PTI*



President Donald Trump's pressure on Ukraine to give up territory to Russia amounts to modern-day appeasement

—Joe Biden, former US president

Putin completes 25 years in Kremlin hot seat

MOSCOW, 7 MAY

Exactly 25 years ago on May 7, an obscure ex-KGB colonel Vladimir Putin – with little public exposure as deputy mayor of St Petersburg – took the oath of the highest office in the post-Communist Russia.

A quarter century later, Putin, 72, still remains the most popular politician in Russia, as was evident by last year's election that he won with just over 88 per cent of votes polled.

In a TV documentary on Sunday, he said he was looking for a successor, but it was not in his power as the successor would have to fight the elections with strong rivals. *—PTI*

EMOTIONAL REUNION

A miniature dachshund Valerie that went missing in 2023 was found and reunited with her owner Georgia Gardner. Being lost for 529 days on Kangaroo Island in South Australia, Valerie survived on roadkill and droppings. In an emotional reunion, she ran straight into Gardner's arms, tail wagging and heart full **PHOTO: X@OZDOGLOVER**

133 TO CAST VOTES

Cardinals begin conclave to pick new Pope

VATICAN CITY, 7 MAY

With centuries-old rituals and solemn grandeur, 133 cardinals gathered at St Peter's Basilica on Wednesday for the final Mass before entering the conclave to elect the next Pope. Representing 70 countries, they form the most geographically diverse conclave in Catholic Church history.

Sequestered from the outside world, the cardinals surrendered their phones and will remain incommunicado until a new Pope is chosen. Pope Francis, who named 108 of the 133 voting cardinals – many from underrepresented nations – has brought an unusual degree of unpredictability to the process.

Mass was celebrated by Cardinal Giovanni Battista Re, who previously presided over Francis' funeral. Clad in red vestments, the cardinals processed past St Peter's tomb, prayed for wisdom, then prepared to enter the Sistine Chapel for the first vote, expected Wednesday evening. Under Michelangelo's frescoes, they swore secrecy before the chapel doors were sealed with the traditional "Extra omnes" command.

Lobbying ahead of the conclave was evident. Youth and abuse survivors issued open letters, while conservative Catholic groups circulated candidate profiles.

Advocates for women's ordination symbolically released pink smoke.

Cardinals are weighing whether to continue Francis' progressive reforms or shift course. Issues at stake include women's roles, LGBTQ+ inclusion, migration, environmentalism, and the church's response to clerical abuse.

Front-runners include Cardinal Pietro Parolin (Italy), Cardinal Luis Tagle (Philippines) and Cardinal Peter Erdo (Hungary), representing differing visions of the Church.

While some anticipate a swift conclave, history suggests several rounds of voting. A two-thirds majority – 89 votes – is required to elect the 267th Pope. *—PTI*

Cardinals attend a special mass before the start of the conclave in the Sistine Chapel **PHOTO: VATICAN MEDIA**

Market ends higher after volatile trade

Sensex gains 105.71 points; Nifty advances by 34.80; private banks, Tata Motors help the surge

MUMBAI, 7 MAY

Benchmark stock indices Sensex and Nifty closed higher in a volatile session on Wednesday as India launched missile strikes on terrorist hideouts in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir.

After gyrating between gains and losses during the day, the 30-share BSE Sensex ended 105.71 points or 0.13 per cent higher at 80,746.78. The index opened sharply down by 692 points and fell further to hit a day's low of 79,937.48 in early trade.

However, buying in private banks and select auto shares such as Tata Motors helped the barometer recover most of the losses and hit a high of 80,844.63 later.

The 50-issue Nifty of NSE advanced by 34.80 points or 0.14 per cent to settle at 24,414.40. Nifty moved between a high of 24,449.60 and a low of 24,220 during the session.

Broader markets also recouped intraday losses and closed higher by more than a per cent. Sectoral indices closed mixed as auto, realty, and metal sectors advanced while pharma and FMCG ended in the red.

"Geopolitical tensions, following India's military response to a terrorist attack, triggered a gap-down opening. However, a swift recovery helped the indices edge higher by the close," Ajit Mishra – SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd said.

In retaliation for the Pahalgam terror attack, Indian armed forces carried out missile strikes early Wednesday on nine terror targets in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir including the Jaish-e-Mohammad stronghold of Bahawalpur and Lashkar-e-Taiba's base Muridke.

From the 30-share Sensex firms, Tata Motors jumped the most by 5.05 per cent as India and the UK sealed a trade deal to reduce duties on most traded goods. The trade deal will make it easier for British firms to export whisky, cars, and other products to India.

Bajaj Finance, Eternal, Adani Ports, Tata Steel, HDFC Bank, Kotak Bank, ICICI Bank, Titan, Mahindra & Mahindra and Power Grid were among the gainers.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.64 per cent to USD 62.55 a barrel. *—PTI*

PSX LOSES 6.5K PTS AMID ESCALATING TENSION BETWEEN INDIA, PAKISTAN

KARACHI, 7 MAY

The Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) lost 6,500 points on Wednesday amid an escalation of military confrontation between India and Pakistan in the wake of the Pahalgam terror attack.

The market saw investors in panic mode in intra-day trade as the benchmark KSE-100 index decreased by 6,560.82 points, or 5.78 per cent, to stand at 107,007.68 from the last close of 113,568.50 when the market opened this morning.

Due to the massive dip, the market was immediately suspended briefly. This is the second-largest intraday tumble (points-wise), second to the 8,700 points loss that happened in the US last month after President Donald Trump's trade tariff announcements.

Fatima Bucha of AKD Securities said the market showed signs of recovery after 11am, reaching 112,457.37 points, before declining to 111,171.92 points at 12pm.

"This was expected in the market for days because of the fears about military strikes by India," she said.

"The market opened under pressure this morning and some selling has been observed, though volumes remain low as investors assess the evolving situation," she said.

Other financial analysts also put down the dip in the market to the escalation in hostilities in the region. *—PTI*

PHOTO:FREEPIK

Gold price surges ₹1,000, reclaims ₹1 lakh/10g

NEW DELHI, 7 MAY

Gold prices surged Rs 1,000 to breach the crucial Rs 1 lakh per 10g-mark in the national capital on Wednesday as escalating tensions between India and Pakistan triggered a safe-haven buying rush. According to the All India Sarafa Association, the precious metal of 99.9 per cent purity climbed Rs 1,000 to Rs 1,00,750 per 10g from Tuesday's closing of Rs 99,750 per 10g. Meanwhile, gold of 99.5 per cent purity jumped Rs 1,050 to Rs 1,00,350 per 10g on Wednesday. It had ended at Rs 99,300 per 10g in the previous market close. In the international markets, spot gold fell USD 62.12 or 1.8 per cent at USD 3,369.65 per ounce. *—PTI*

Rupee falls 45P to close at 84.80 against USD

NEW DELHI, 7 MAY

The rupee depreciated 45 paise to close at 84.80 (provisional) against the US dollar on Wednesday, as heightened cross-border tensions following India's military strikes against terrorist camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir weighed on the domestic currency. Forex traders said the Indian rupee declined on Wednesday after the Indian Army conducted "Operation Sindoor" and struck terrorist camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir, which weighed on the domestic currency. At the interbank foreign exchange, the domestic unit opened at 84.65 and moved between an intra-day high of 84.47 and a low of 84.93 against the greenback. The unit ended the session at 84.80 (provisional), registering a fall of 45 paise over its previous closing level. *—PTI*

HUDCO Q4 profit increases 4%; reaches ₹728 cr

NEW DELHI, 7 MAY

State-owned Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) on Wednesday reported 4 per cent increase in consolidated net profit at Rs 727.74 crore for March quarter FY25 on higher income. Its net profit stood at Rs 700.16 crore in the year-ago period. Total income rose to Rs 2,854.91 crore in January-March 2024-25 from Rs 2,194.04 crore in the year-ago period, according to a regulatory filing. During 2024-25, HUDCO's net profit increased to Rs 2,709.14 crore from Rs 2,116.69 crore in the preceding year. Total income also rose to Rs 10,348.38 crore from Rs 7,948.10 crore in 2023-24. On Tuesday, HUDCO said it plans to raise up to Rs 2,190 crore through issue of debentures. *—PTI*

Servotech net profit doubles to ₹7.71 cr

NEW DELHI, 7 MAY

Servotech Renewable Power System has posted a two-fold rise in net profit to Rs 7.71 crore in the March quarter, driven by higher revenues. It had reported Rs 3.45 crore net profit in the January-March period of the preceding 2023-24 financial year, the company said in a filing on Wednesday. The company's revenues increased 8 per cent to Rs 147.46 crore in the fourth quarter from Rs 136.65 crore in the same period last fiscal. For the entire FY25, total revenue increased by 91 per cent to Rs 676.80 crore from Rs 355.26 crore in FY24. The company aims to ramp up domestic manufacturing, scaling up innovations and taking the Made in India solutions to international markets, he said. *—PTI*

NEW DELHI, 7 MAY

The recent executive orders on pharma issued by President Donald Trump are expected to create significant challenges for Indian pharmaceutical companies, especially those operating in the US generic drug market, said a report by Nuvama Research.

These policy moves aim to prioritise domestic manufacturing of pharmaceuticals in the US and could reshape global drug supply chains if implemented strictly.

The report said, "The new development, if fully implemented, can disrupt and reshape global pharma supply chains. Over the past few months, we have been observing announcement of the cumulative USD 15 billion capex plans in the US by innovative pharma companies".

India has long enjoyed a cost advantage in manufacturing drugs, particularly generics. Many Indian companies export medicines to the US, benefiting from lower operational costs.

However, the Trump administration's orders now push US agencies to bring back drug manufacturing –including Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients, Key Starting Materials and raw materials – into the US itself.

The repot said this shift could reduce the cost arbitrage Indian drug makers have enjoyed so far.

The report said "while Indian companies have remained silent due to the cost arbitrage offered by manufacturing in India. The new order, if implemented, may have the potential to restructure the US generic supply chain as it directs highlevel efforts for the US agencies to re-shore manufacturing back to the US". *—ANI*

'Wealthiest 1% caused a fifth of climate change'

NEW DELHI, 7 MAY

One per cent of the world's wealthiest are responsible for a fifth of the global warming seen since 1990, while 10 per cent are responsible for two-thirds of global warming, a new study has found.

Published in the journal Nature Climate Change, the study directly links climate change to personal lifestyle and investment choices of high-income individuals, according to researchers.

Further, one per cent of the wealthiest were found to have contributed 26 times the global average to increases in 1-in-a-100-year heat extremes in a month.

The findings shed new light on climate injustice and inequality in emissions related to incomes and show how the consumption and investments of wealthy people disproportionately impact the world's weather.

Tropical regions, including the Amazon, southeast Asia, and southern Africa – all of which historically contributed the least to the world's emissions – experience especially severe impacts of climate change, the team said.

Evidence on how emissions from wealthy individuals drive climate extremes provide a "strong support for climate policies that target the reduction of their emissions", Schoengart added.

Making rich individual polluters pay can also help provide much needed support for adaptation and loss and damage in vulnerable countries, according to the researchers.

For the analysis, the team combined economic data and climate models, which helped them trace emissions from varied income groups. *—PTI*

No duty relief on sensitive goods to UK firms under FTA

NEW DELHI, 7 MAY

India will not give any duty concessions to British businesses on a number of sensitive industrial goods like diamond, silver, smartphones, and optical fibres under the free trade agreement (FTA) with the UK, an official said.

The official said the duty concession on imports of petrol and diesel engine vehicles from the UK is limited to pre-defined quota.

Similarly, the quota for imports of British electric vehicles at concessional rate of customs duty is limited only to "few" thousands.

Sensitive industrial goods like plastics, diamond, silver, base stations, smartphones, television camera tubes, optical fibres, optical fibres bundles and cables have been kept under exclusion list of the FTA.

PHOTO:PIXABAY

No import duty benefits are given on these goods by India to the UK.

On opening up the auto sector, the official said that as the fourth-largest automobile producer globally, India possesses the scale and strategic depth to emerge as a global leader in the automotive value chain.

Despite India's strong manufacturing base, its share in the globally traded auto market remains subdued, highlighting a vast scope for expansion.

The access to UK market for internal combustion engine vehicles has the potential to boost the country's auto and auto components exports.

"No out of quota duty reduction for EVs. The sensitivity related to EVs has been taken care of. The out of quota duty on ICE vehicles will be reduced over a period of time, thereby helping our industries absorb the incremental increase of imports from UK," the official added. *—PTI*

India–UK tariff cuts to boost textile sector

NEW DELHI, 7 MAY

The Indian textile industry has welcomed the India-UK Free Trade Agreement (FTA), calling it a major step towards expanding India's presence in the UK market. Experts believe the agreement will help exporters and strengthen the sector in terms of trade, employment and global competitiveness. Santosh Katariya, President of the Clothing Manufacturers Association of India, said the UK is one of the most promising and growing markets for Indian textile and apparel products. He said the recent US tariff row has underlined the need to diversify export destinations and this FTA will help. *— ANI*

India reserves right to retaliate UK's carbon tax: Official

NEW DELHI, 7 MAY

The India-UK free trade agreement (FTA) has no provision to counter Britain's proposed carbon tax, but amid uncertainty and absence of UK legislation, New Delhi has preserved its right to retaliate or rebalance concessions, if future measures impact domestic exports, an official said. The UK government in December 2023 decided to implement its Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) starting 2027. Economic think tank GTRI said, India's exports worth USD 775 million to the UK may be impacted due to Britain's decision to introduce carbon tax on products such as iron and steel, aluminium, fertiliser and cement, from 2027. The official said that FTA with the UK has no provisions to counter CBAM, which has the potential to nullify the concessions offered by Britain to India. The UK, after the EU, will be the second economy to implement CBAM. It calls it the import carbon pricing mechanism and it will initially focus on sectors like iron, steel, aluminum, fertiliser, hydrogen, ceramics, glass, and cement. This tax could range from 14-24 per cent of the import value on full phase-out of free allowances under the Emission Trading System. *– PTI*

Simple Energy mulls ₹3K cr IPO

NEW DELHI, 7 MAY

Electric two-wheeler maker Simple Energy plans to raise about Rs 3,000 crore through initial public offering by FY27 to fund its market expansion, new manufacturing unit, and R&D, according to its Founder and CEO Suhas Rajkumar.

The company is stepping up its network expansion from the current 15 stores and 15 service centers to have 500 touchpoints in the next two years to grow its revenue multifold ahead of the initial public offering (IPO), Rajkumar told PTI.

The Bengaluru-based electric vehicle (EV) startup has set an ambitious target of clocking Rs 800 crore in revenue in FY26 with an aim to cross Rs 1,500 crore in cumulative revenue over the next 18 months.

Simple Energy had clocked Rs 40 crore revenue in FY25, he said.

At present, the company's facility at Hosur in Tamil Nadu has an annual capacity of 3 lakh units, he said, adding "We want to double that capacity post-listing".

With a growing presence in key states such as Karnataka, Maharashtra, Goa, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Kerala, Simple Energy said it aims to achieve cumulative sales of 1 lakh EVs before the IPO. *—PTI*

Housing prices stable in Tier-1 cities: PropTiger

NEW DELHI, 7 MAY

Average housing prices across Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR), Delhi-NCR, Chennai and Pune remained stable during the January-March period compared to the previous quarter, according to PropTiger.

Data of real estate brokerage firm PropTiger, a part of REA India that owns Housing.com, showed that prices in Bengaluru and Hyderabad grew 5 per cent each while Ahmedabad and Kolkata saw an appreciation of 4 per cent each.

The consultant noted that residential property prices have continued to rise year-on-year, but the pace of growth has clearly moderated in recent quarters.

"The moderation in price growth observed over the past few quarters indicates a stabilising market dynamic," said PropTiger's Dhruv Agarwala.

"This more measured trajectory is critical for sustaining end-user participation while maintaining the value built by investors and developers. In 2025, the market is expected to undergo further consolidation, reinforcing structural fundamentals and enabling steady, sustainable growth," Agarwala added.

As per the data, MMR, Delhi-NCR, Chennai and Pune markets did not see any increase in average prices. *—PTI*

OPERATION SINDOOR

Over 200 flights cancelled; 18 airports temporarily shut

NEW DELHI/ MUMBAI, 7 MAY

More than 200 flights have been cancelled and at least 18 airports, have been temporarily shut for operations amid restrictions in the wake of the armed forces launching missile attacks on terror targets in Pakistan on Wednesday morning.

Air India, IndiGo, SpiceJet, Air India Express, Akasa Air, and a few foreign airlines have cancelled their services to and from various airports.

Sources said that at least 18 airports in the northern and western parts of the country have been temporarily shut. These airports include Srinagar, Leh, Jammu, Amritsar, Pathankot, Chandigarh, Jodhpur, Jaisalmer, Shimla, Dharamshala and Jamnagar, they added.

According to one of the sources, more than 200 flights to and from various airports have been cancelled by airlines.

IndiGo said it has cancelled more than 165 flights from various domestic airports, including Amritsar and Srinagar, till early morning of May 10 due to airspace restrictions.

The airline also said that passengers whose flights are affected can reschedule the booking on the next available flight or opt to cancel their bookings at no additional cost, and a full refund will be processed.

At least 35 flights to and from the Delhi airport, the country's largest and busiest airport, have been cancelled since 12 am, one of the sources said.

Meanwhile, Qatar Airways, in a post on X, said it has temporarily suspended flights to Pakistan due to Pakistani airspace closure.

In retaliation against the Pahalgam terror attack last month, Indian armed forces, under Operation Sindoor, on early Wednesday, carried out missile strikes on nine terror targets in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir, including the Jaish-e-Mohammad stronghold of Bahawalpur and Lashkar-e-Taiba's base in Muridke. *—PTI*

IndiGo cancels over 165 flights till 10 May

NEW DELHI, 7 MAY

IndiGo on Wednesday said it has cancelled more than 165 flights from various domestic airports till 10 May due to airspace restrictions in the wake of India's Sindoor Operation against Pakistan on Wednesday. Some airports have been shut temporarily. IndiGo operates around 2,200 flights daily. *—PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

Musheer, Mhatreare big buys in T20 ML auction

NEW DELHI, 7 MAY

Youngsters Musheer Khan, Ayush Mhatre, Suryansh Shedge, and Angkrish Raghuvanshi were among the big buys in the initial round of auction for the third edition of T20 Mumbai League, which will be held here from 26 May to 8 June. The 20-year-old Musheer, who is in the Punjab Kings' squad in the Indian Premier League along with 22-year-old Shedge, was bought for Rs 15 lakh by Arcs Andheri. Mhatre, who made his Ranji Trophy debut for Mumbai earlier this season and had a successful run in the red-ball competition along with impressive returns in the Vijay Hazare Trophy, went on to make his debut in the IPL for Chennai Super Kings this year.—*PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

Sunil Chhetri included in India's probables list

NEW DELHI, 7 MAY

Indian football head coach Manolo Márquez has reposed faith in the abilities of veteran forward Sunil Chhetri, including him in the 28-member probables squad for next month's AFC Asian Cup 2027 Final Round qualifiers. Chhetri, 40, was forced to come out of retirement in March to lead a struggling India, reversing his decision to hang up the boots last year after more than two decades of wizardry upfront. He has since led the national side in a friendly against Maldives and also played in the 2027 AFC Asian Cup qualifiers against Bangladesh. "The probables will assemble in Kolkata on May 18, to train for the FIFA International window in June," said an All India Football Federation (AIFF) statement on Wednesday. —*PTI*

Indian national held in doping drugs in Kenya

NEW DELHI, 7 MAY

Kenya's anti-doping agency says an Indian national was caught with "an illegal consignment of assorted performance enhancing substances" during a recent raid on prohibited drugs, conducted in collaboration with the country's Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI). In a statement posted on its social media handles, the Nairobi-based Anti-Doping Agency of Kenya (ADAK) stated that the raid was carried out based on "actionable intelligence" but did not reveal the Indian national's identity. Media reports in Kenya stated that the person has been arrested in the matter.—*PTI*

McIlroy eyes another win at Truist

PHILADELPHIA, 7 MAY

The field is stacked with quality, led by Rory McIlroy, winner of the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am, McIlroy eyes another win at Truist. Nine of the world's top ten players are in action, with only World No. 1 Scottie Scheffler absent. Indian-American golfer Akshay Bhatia, who has endured a mixed run of form this season, will aim to climb the FedEx Cup standings as he prepares for the Truist Championship, starting here Thursday.—*PTI*

Desperate DC face in-form PBKS in must-win IPL clash

Axar Patel-led side had a disappointing time at home

DHARAMSALA, 7 MAY

Delhi Capitals will be desperate to arrest their slump and stay in contention for the playoffs when they take on a high-flying Punjab Kings in a crucial IPL match on Thursday.

DC have endured three losses and a no result due to rain in their last five games, and are currently placed fifth on the table with 13 points from 11 matches.

The Axar Patel-led side had a disappointing time at home, managing just one win, that too via a Super Over, at the Arun Jaitley Stadium.

A team that won its first four matches would have hoped that a change of venue would bring a change in fortune, but DC's batting unit disintegrated against Sunrisers Hyderabad in their last game in Hyderabad before rain washed out the contest.

It was a complete top-order collapse as DC lost half their side for 29, and it was only due to the brilliance of Ashutosh Sharma that they managed a respectable 133.

DC's top order has looked vulnerable. Karun Nair's promotion as an opener in the last game backfired as he was dismissed for a duck. —*PTI*

> **Mumbai Indians erred in execution, will take every game as a playoff contest now**
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>
> -Mahela Jayawardene, Mumbai Indians head coach

> **Hardik Pandya did not bowl properly final over in the rain-curtailed IPL 2025 match against Gujarat Titans**
>
>
>
> -Sunil Gavaskar, Former India captain

Hardik Pandya, Nehra fined

Mumbai Indians captain Hardik Pandya and his team were handed hefty fines for maintaining a slow over rate, while their rival side Gujarat Titans' head coach Ashish Nehra also copped a financial penalty and a demerit point for conduct "contrary to the spirit of the game" in their IPL clash here. MI lost by three wickets via the Duckworth-Lewis (DLS) method to GT in a rain-affected match, which concluded well past midnight at the Wankhede Stadium here. "As it was his team's second offence of the season under the IPL's Code of Conduct relating to minimum over-rate offences.

'OPERATION SINDOOR'

IPL teams' travel plans affected as Dharamsala airport shut

NEW DELHI/MUMBAI, 7 DEC

With the temporary closure of Dharamsala's airport following India's missile strikes on Pakistan's terror infrastructure, the travel plans of IPL teams which are supposed to play in the hill town have gone for a toss but they have decided to adopt a wait and watch policy for now.

Dharamsala, which is due to host the Punjab Kings vs Delhi Capitals clash on Thursday, has one more match left on schedule, the 11 May game between Punjab and Mumbai Indians.

The picturesque city is the second home base of Punjab Kings, who don't face any immediate logistical hassle for now, as they will be in the city till the end of this week. But Delhi will need to figure out its logistics as the players have to be back at their home base for the game on Sunday.

The Mumbai team's travel plans to Dharamsala remain unclear at this point.

"Everything is fluid at the moment. Discussions are on with franchises, and they are also internally discussing what the options are of travelling from Dharamsala to Delhi in case the airport remains shut," a BCCI source told PTI on condition of anonymity. "One option (for Delhi Capitals) remains a bus journey, but then it is not just about teams but also the broadcast crew and equipment. It's an evolving situation," he added. —*PTI*

PBKS VS DC

HEAD TO HEAD	
PLAYED:	33
PBKS Won:	17
DC Won:	15

PBKS vs DC Match starts at 7.30 pm IST

Rohit announces retirement from Test cricket with immediate effect

NEW DELHI, 7 MAY

Rohit Sharma on Wednesday announced his retirement from Test cricket with immediate effect, ending all speculations about his future in the longest format.

India captain Rohit Sharma announced his retirement from Test cricket with immediate effect, minutes after reports of Rohit being sacked as Test captain went viral.

The 38-year-old was India's most prolific Test batter in the second half of his career, scoring 4301 runs in 67 Tests with 12 hundreds and 18 half centuries at an average of 40.57.

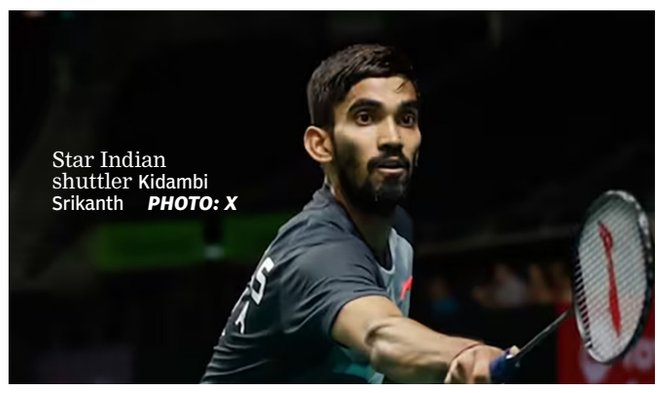
Rohit captained India to the World Test Championship final against Australia and saved the last couple of indifferent series against New Zealand at home and the Border-Gavaskar series against Australia.

The Ajit Agarkar-led BCCI senior selection committee has decided to sack Rohit Sharma as India's Test captain for the upcoming England tour, reported The Indian Express. Rohit, who is likely to remain as India's ODI captain, may travel to England as part of the squad as a specialist batter, but the selectors were repeatedly not ready to keep him as captain based on his recent red-ball form. India lost five out of their last six Tests in Rohit's captaincy against New Zealand at home and against Australia away. Rohit, who went through a nightmarish form in Test cricket, dropped himself from the XI for the last Test in Sydney. According to the report, the selectors have already informed the BCCI and the senior board officials have decided to back the call. The selectors held a series of meetings, the latest one being in Mumbai to chalk out a roadmap for the Test side. —*PTI*

TAIPEI OPEN

Srikanth, Ayush, Mannepalli, Unnati enter second round

TAIPEI, 7 MAY



Star Indian shuttler Kidambi Srikanth PHOTO: X

Star Indian shuttler Kidambi Srikanth started his campaign on a bright note with a straight-game win as he, along with a host of other youngsters, progressed to the second round of the Taipei Open Super 300 Badminton Tournament here on Wednesday.

World No. 61 Srikanth, who is battling an extended lean patch, dispatched fellow Indian Sankar Subramanian, a 2022 world junior championships silver medallist, 21-16, 21-15 to enter the second round. The 32-year-old, a silver-medallist at the 2021 World Championships, will face another Indian Ayush Shetty, a 2023 world junior championships bronze medallist.

Ayush, who reached the semifinals of the Orleans Masters, produced a stunning show, upsetting third seed and world number 13 Lee Chia Hao of Chinese Taipei 21-17, 21-18 in 50 minutes. Chia-hao was runner-up at the All England Championships in March.

The 2023 National Games gold-medallist Tharun Mannepalli produced a gritty show, outwitting Japan's Shogo Ogawa 21-17 19-21 21-12 in 70 70-minute clash to set up a meeting with Indonesia's Moh. Zaki Ubaidillah. —*PTI*

INDIA SET TO MEET SL IN FINALS

COLOMBO, 7 MAY

Riding on Jemimah Rodrigues' career-best century and half-tons from opener Smriti Mandhana and Deepti Sharma, India defeated a fighting South Africa by 23 runs to set up a title clash with Sri Lanka in the women's Tri-Nation ODI series here on Wednesday.

Rodrigues' blazing 123 off 101 balls, laced with 15 fours and a six, saw India post a huge 337 for 9 before the bowlers, led by pacer seamer Amanjot Kaur (3/59) and off-spinner Deepti Sharma (2/57), restricted the opponents to 314/7.

This despite Annerie Dercksen's fine 81-run knock and stand-in skipper Chloe Tryon's 67.India ended their round-robin phase with six points from four games. Sri Lanka, on the other hand, have four points from three games and could garner two more points if they beat South Africa on Friday. —*PTI*

Jemimah Rodrigues PHOTO: PTI

Indian Men's, Women's teams enter WC Stage 2

SHANGHAI, 7 MAY

The Indian men's and women's compound archery teams stormed into the finals of the World Cup Stage 2 with commanding wins here on Wednesday, assuring the country of two medals from the prestigious event.

While the compound archers continued to shine, it was a grim picture in the Olympic discipline recurve section, where the Indians endured a disappointing day with only Dhiraj Bommadevara finishing in the top-10, while the rest struggled with ordinary qualifying scores.

The No. 1-ranked men's team of Ojas Deotale, Abhishek Verma, and Rishabh Yadav easily defeated Great Britain 239-232 in the quarterfinal before overcoming a strong challenge from Denmark 232-231 in the semifinal.

Abhishek Verma, Jyothi Surekha Vennam, who lost the mixed team final to Uthe SA, will look for redemption in the women's and men's team finals, respectively. PHOTO: PTI

In the women's compound section, the top-ranked Indian team comprising Madhura Dhamangaonkar, Chikitha Taniparthi, and Jyothi Surekha Vennam overcame Kazakhstan in the quarterfinal, before defeating Great Britain in the last-four stage to set up a title clash with Mexico.

Both the gold-medal matches against Mexico will take place on Saturday.

In the men's quarterfinal against Great Britain, India lost the opening series 59-60 before the team pulled things back in the second with a scoreline of 60-58, thus taking the aggregate score after two sets to 119-118. —*PTI*

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE FINAL

Frattesi scores in extra time as Inter beat Barcelona

MILAN, 7 MAY

Inter Milan beat Barcelona 4-3 after extra time in another rollercoaster encounter to reach a second Champions League final in three years.

In the end, it took extra time, two astonishing Barcelona fightbacks and 13 goals some of them mesmerizing to separate the two sides and see Inter prevail 7-6 on aggregate.

Substitute Davide Frattesi was the extra-time hero for Inter, firing home in the 99th minute to leave the Barcelona players slumped to the ground and all his Nerazzurri teammates, including those on the bench, racing to celebrate with him. Moments earlier, Frattesi had been encouraging the already loud San Siro crowd to make more noise, and the atmosphere grew even more feverish after his strike.

Davide Frattesi of FC Internazionale celebrates scoring his team's fourth goal 5 PHOTO: X / @INTER

Inter, which lost the final to Manchester City in 2023, will face either Paris Saint-Germain or Arsenal in Munich on May 31. PSG beat Arsenal 1-0 in London last week in their first match.

There was little sign of the drama to come at halftime, with Inter comfortably leading 2-0 after Lautaro Martínez scored and earned a penalty, which was converted by Hakan Çalhanoglu.

But Barcelona had been in that position before, having gone 2-0 down early in the first leg last week before securing a thrilling 3-3 draw.

Frattesi had proved crucial off the substitutes' bench before, both for Italy and Inter, and so he was again, controlling Mehdi Taremi's pass and dummying round Pau Cubarsí before curling past Wojciech Szczesny. —*PTI*

ARSENAL DETERMINED 'TO MAKE A STATEMENT' AGAINST PSG

LONDON, 7 MAY

Arsenal's Declan Rice insisted Tuesday the Gunners are confident they can "deliver something special" by overturning a 1-0 first-leg deficit when they face Paris Saint-Germain in the French capital in the return match of their Champions League semi-final tie. "We're here to win the game. We're here to make a statement. We want to get to the final. So we need to be ready to go and do that," Rice told reporters at the Parc des Princes on the eve of Wednesday's showdown.

"We need to have big balls, and we need to go out there on the biggest stage and show that we're ready to play at this level.

"It's going to be the biggest night in this club's history if we can get to the final. So we're fully ready to go." PSG hold the advantage coming into Wednesday's match after Ousmane Dembele's early goal gave them a narrow victory at the Emirates Stadium a week ago. —*PTI*